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OPINION METER

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PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS PHASE 6

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Phase 2: An animal influenza virus is causing infection in humans, and is considered a potential pandemic threat.

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Phase 4: Verified human-to-human transmission of an animal or human-animal influenza virus able to cause "community-level outbreaks."

Phase 5: A strong signal that a pandemic is imminent and that the time to finalize the organization, communication, and implementation of planned mitigation measures is short.

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmipheoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE



Cory Funeral

Former Philippine President Corazon "Cory" Aquino was laid to rest Wednesday.

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27 bets file candidacy papers under GOP banner. **PAGE 2**
Villagomez, Santos pay \$1.2K assessment. **PAGE 8**

Ex-NMC president Deleon Guerrero dies

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER



Deleon Guerrero

Former Northern Marianas College president Antonio Deleon Guerrero passed away Wednesday night after suffering a heart attack. He was 52.

Saipan Tribune learned that Deleon Guerrero, who was recuperating from a minor accident the previous

week, was taken to the Commonwealth hospital on Aug. 5 and was

See EX-NMC on Page 4

\$5.2M in extra govt costs in FY 2010

Impact of Fund court ruling also
bloats expenses for rest of FY09

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

2010 on top of other expenses to be able to satisfy portions of a \$231.6 million court judgment in the NMI Retirement Fund case.

The impact of Superior Court

See \$5.2M on Page 4



Yumul



SAIPAN'S SON

Lt. Col. Harry Camacho Blanco, sixth from right, holds a copy of a Senate commemorative resolution presented to him by Senate President Pete P. Reyes, fourth from left, and House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios, fifth from left, and other lawmakers in the House chamber on Capital Hill yesterday morning. Joining them are visiting Maj. Gen. Francis J. Wiercinski, third from left, and others from the U.S. Army Japan & I Corps (Forward), who briefed CNMI officials on the agency's mission. Senate Commemorative Resolution 16-07 honors the accomplishments of Blanco, the highest-ranking Army commissioned officer currently on active duty status from the CNMI and a former executive director of the Criminal Justice and Planning Agency. The visiting Army officers also made a courtesy call on Gov. Benigno R. Fitial yesterday.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

A quest for better treatment, immigration status

As federalization nears,
guest workers and loved
ones still in limbo

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER



First of a series

Rene Reyes, 37, remembers too well the

day he visited his child's graveyard at the Chalan Kanoa public cemetery when some local residents yelled at him and taunted him to "dig up your child" and "bury her in the Philippines."

"I was crying, hearing those hurtful words. I couldn't forget that day. I didn't realize that people could be so mean to others," he said in an

See A QUEST on Page 4

DEQ identifies 71 brownfields sites in NMI

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER



Masga

According to a Division of Environmental Quality inventory, there are a total of 71 brownfields sites on private and public lands in the CNMI.

Brownfields sites are lands previously used for industrial or commercial uses that may be contaminated by waste or pollution, and have the potential to be reused once they

See DEQ on Page 4

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Local

27 bets file candidacy papers under GOP banner

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Twenty-seven individuals, together with their families and supporters, trooped to the Commonwealth Election Commission yesterday noon and simultaneously filed their petitions to become official candidates of the Republican Party in the November general elections.

Led by the GOP standard-bearers Heinz Hofschneider and Arnold Palacios, aspiring candidates represented the full slate for Saipan and Tinian: 19 for House seats, four for the Senate, two mayoralty bets, and the governor and lieutenant gover-



Election Commission executive director Robert Guerrero, front, in long sleeves, officially receives from Republican gubernatorial candidate Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider, petition papers as running mate House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios and 25 other Republicans who filed their candidacies yesterday, along with their spouses, look on, in front of the Commonwealth Election Commission office on Capital Hill yesterday afternoon.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

nor positions.

Election Commission executive director Robert Guerrero, who received the candidates' petitions and documents, informed party officials that the list of certified candidates will be released by next week.

The commission has until Monday to accommodate aspiring candidates.

Hofschneider expects more people to join the party's kick-off rally tomorrow, where all candidates will be formally introduced. The event will start at

11am and last until 4pm at Civic Center in Susupe.

Hofschneider, who won in the June primary over former governor Juan Babauta, is confident the GOP will be victorious in November.

Hofschneider cited as top priorities of the GOP platform the economy, utilities, hospital, employment opportunities, and improving federal relations.

GOP's lieutenant gubernatorial bet Arnold Palacios said their camp has been conducting village and house visits even be-

fore the primary to reach more people in the community.

When asked about the GOP's edge over the other teams, the two said the experience and commitment of members are prime factors.

"We're offering real proposals and ideas. I think the GOP has shown a tremendous ability to come together and really pay attention to the real promise of change," Hofschneider said.

Palacios said: "We will do well [in November]. Like other parties such as the Covenant, GOP is also pretty organized and we have the support of the grassroots. We will continue to work on that. I know that it's not going to be easy...but we will work hard."

Palacios said that Hofschneider is slated to fly this month to some U.S. states to campaign among absentee voters.

Acting GOP president Dave Attao yesterday described the party's slate as "very strong" and emphasized that it is the team's goal to conduct a "fair and clean" election.

"We want to continue the respect we have shown during the primary election and we expect everybody to run a fair and clean election," Attao said.

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All systems go for Rahall's congressional visit

It's all systems go for the arrival in the Marianas of House Natural Resources Committee chair Nick J. Rahall II (D-WV) and five other U.S. lawmakers, including Rep. Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP).

Rahall's group is the second to arrive on Saipan in about a month. On July 4, 2009, a congressional delegation led by Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee chair David Price (D-NC) spent a day on the island upon Sablan's invitation.

The three-day visit to the CNMI of the Committee on Natural Resources CODEL comes just 112 days before the Nov. 28, 2009, implementation date of the federal immigration system in the Marianas and the problems of implementation are sure to be the topic of discussion between the CODEL and government and business leaders here.

Joining Rahall and Kilili in the CODEL are Rep. Eni Faleomavaega (D-AS), chairman of the Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific and the Global Environment; Rep. Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU), chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans & Wildlife; Rep. Henry Brown (R-SC), ranking member of the Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans & Wildlife; and Rep. Donna M. Christensen (D-

USVI), member of the Energy & Commerce and Natural Resources committees and second vice chair of the Congressional Black Caucus.

At 4:30pm tomorrow, a military plane carrying the Rahall-led CODEL will land at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. Sablan's wife, Andrea, will lead the welcoming party.

From the airport they will proceed to the Hyatt Regency Saipan to meet with the officers of the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands. HANMI is expected to press the delegation on the inclusion of Russian and Chinese tourists in the visa-waiver program.

"Allowing Russian and Chinese tourists to come to the CNMI without having to get a visa is vital to the Commonwealth's tourism economy," Sablan said. "I want the CODEL to have an opportunity to hear first-hand accounts on the economic impact of losing Russian and Chinese tourists."

After the HANMI meeting, Sablan's family will treat the group to an authentic Chamorro barbecue dinner. Sablan has also invited Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and first lady Josie Fitial to the dinner.

"We in the Marianas take pride in our food and hospitality and I want Mr. Rahall and my colleagues in Congress and the staff to experience that," said Sablan.

On Sunday Rahall will join Sablan in listening to what is expected to be a large gathering of people whose immigration status

will be affected by the transition to U.S. control. The meeting at the fishing base in Garapan will include the immediate relatives of U.S. citizens, permanent residents of the Commonwealth, and the long-term workers who are critical to the economy.

That night Fitial will host a

dinner for the CODEL at his Gualo Rai residence.

On Monday the CODEL will meet formally with the governor, the CNMI mayors, and the Legislature. It will also include meetings with federal officials and with the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

"My plan was for the CODEL to have contact with as many people as possible, representing a wide range of views and concerns," Sablan said.

Also part of the CODEL are committee staff members Brian Modeste, Jean Flemma and Bonnie Bruce and military escorts.

After the CNMI, the CODEL will proceed to Guam. The CODEL had also been to American Samoa and Palau. (PR)

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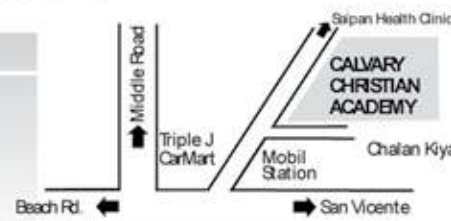


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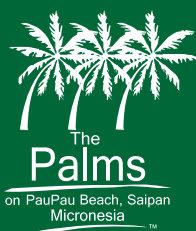
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DEQ

From Page 1

are cleaned up.

In the CNMI, a total of 51 sites have been found with petroleum product contaminants: 25 on Saipan, 10 on Tinian, and 16 on Rota.

Twenty sites have been identified with hazardous substances: 16 on Saipan, one on Tinian and three on Rota.

The DEQ also identified potential brownfields sites in different villages on Saipan: six in Kagman, five in Talofofo, four in Dandan/airport, three each

in Puerto Rico Chalan Kanoa, As Lito, and San Antonio/Chalan Piao, two each in Marpi, Capital Hill, As Terlaje, and Susupe, and one each in Kagman and San Jose.

The DEQ and the Department of Public Lands held a public presentation on the brownfields program Wednesday night but only a handful of participants attended.

Ray Masga, DEQ's Site Assessment and Remediation manager, said it has been a challenge to come up with a good turnout and meet the landowners.

"We have been inviting them to come to us. So far, not many have come and

only one has been approved," he said.

Records show that of the 32 private lands that had been identified, two applications for the so-called Phase I of the environmental site assessment are pending and one has been approved.

In contrast, of the 39 public land sites identified, 13 applications for the Phase I ESA have already been approved. These include the controversial land clearing in Marpi.

In addition, nine had just been completed while one is pending.

Masga explained that phase one of the ESA would involve environmental record review, historical record review, interviews, and visual inspection.

It would also involve identification of the so-called Recognized Environmental Conditions at the site that may indicate presence of contamination.

It also determines whether a Phase II is needed or not.

Phase II would confirm the presence or absence of contamination through environmental sampling as well as to determine whether a cleanup action is needed or not.

DPL received \$350,000 in brownfields assessment grant for the Marpi site in 2006 and a \$200,000 brownfields cleanup grant for the same site in 2008. The phase one ESA for the site was completed in 2007.

DEQ reported that the Marpi property is littered with unexploded ordnance. The CNMI was a major battlefield during World War II.

Masga said they are encouraging the community to take advantage of the four types of DEQ/DPL Brownfields grants: the 128a grant for timely survey and inventory of potential sites, the 104k Petroleum Assessment Grant, the 104k Hazardous Substance Grant, and the cleanup grant.

Ed Manibusan, DEQ's environmental specialist, said this would be an opportunity for landowners and operators to open up areas for eco-tourism purposes.

A QUEST

From Page 1

interview.

With no one to turn to at that time, he called a lawmaker who was a neighbor, asking him to intervene, especially when one of the people bullying him, a woman, got more aggressive. That lawmaker, whom he asked not to be named in the paper, passed by and greeted him, quelling the tension at the cemetery. The woman turned out to be the lawmaker's aunt.

Reyes, now a father of a 6-year-old boy and a 14-year-old girl, said some members of the local community have yet to treat guest workers as their equal, despite their social and economic contributions to the CNMI.

His quest for better treatment of foreign workers in the CNMI comes at a time when a large sector of the community is seeking improved or stable immigration status under a federal system starting Nov. 28.

Just like many others, Reyes fears losing his job when the transition to federalization begins, forcing him to choose between leaving his U.S. citizen children on Saipan or bringing them with him back to the Philippines and

losing their privileges as U.S. citizens, including free public education.

"I am hoping that long-term alien workers are granted improved status, like permanent residency under the U.S. system, and a pathway to citizenship as what we have long been asking the federal government," said Reyes, who is the president of the Coalition of United Workers NMI.

Family separation

A few months ahead of federalization, thousands of guest workers, immediate relatives of U.S. citizens, Freely Associated States citizens, CNMI permanent residents, members of the business community, widows and widowers of U.S. citizen spouses, alien spouses divorced from their U.S. citizen spouses, and U.S. citizen children of non-immigrant parents are still in limbo.

Among them are Jenica G. Atalig, 13, and Beda G. Mundo, 12, both U.S. citizens by virtue of their birth in the CNMI, and their Filipino mother, Camila. The minors want their mother to be granted U.S. citizenship by the federal government so she could stay with them in the CNMI even without a job.

Their mother's immigration status is that of an immediate relative (IR) of a U.S. citizen under CNMI law.

But U.S. immigration laws do not recognize the CNMI's IR status, therefore thousands of these individuals will lose their immigration status by Nov. 28 and may be forced to depart the CNMI unless the U.S. government grants them a status that will allow them to continue to work and live in the CNMI.

These IRs may be forced to leave behind their children in the CNMI either in the care of their U.S. citizen relatives or by themselves.

Atalig and Mundo's mother, who worked at a hotel for seven years until she was laid off due to economic hardships, is married to a U.S. citizen. Their mother could apply for a green card or permanent residency, but the fees rack up to thousands of dollars, which the family cannot afford at this time.

"Fees for applying for green card are unaffordable. We strongly favor an enhanced status for aliens living here and have U.S.-born children. Let this concern of ours be heard," the two minors said in a letter in March to members of the U.S. Congress.

Groups of guest workers and their supporters have been hoping that Atalig and Mundo's letter, along with those of over 1,500 children and adults, asking for an improved immigration status for themselves or their families have not been ig-

nored by U.S. lawmakers. Florida-based activist Wendy Doromal handed the letters to key lawmakers in March.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has yet to issue regulations on the CNMI-only transitional foreign worker program and foreign investors and student, leaving the community in limbo.

CODEL visit

Thousands of guest workers in the CNMI and others hope that the Aug. 8 to 10 visit of Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV), the chairman of the powerful U.S. House Natural Resources Committee, along with Rep. Gregorio Kilili Sablan (D-MP) and other congressional members, will provide some clarity, if not further hope, that the plight of foreign workers and others whose immigration status remain are on shaky ground, will be heard.

An ad-hoc committee consisting of representatives from different groups in the CNMI is organizing a peaceful assembly at 3pm at the Garapan Fishing Base on Sunday, wanting an audience with Rahall and the members of his delegation.

Rahall's Committee on Natural Resources has oversight on insular possessions of the U.S., including the CNMI, Guam, American Samoa, Vir-

gin Islands and Puerto Rico.

"We will request the delegates to push for the implementation of regulations that will stabilize our presence here and keep our families together. We will also ask the delegates to support improved status for us—either in standalone legislation or in a comprehensive bill for national immigration reform," the Committee on Outreach and Public Information said.

Rep. Tina Sablan (I-Saipan), who is one of those attending, will appeal to the congressional delegation to support legislation granting improved status for the thousands of guest workers, immediate relatives, FAS citizens, CNMI permanent residents, stateless citizens born in the CNMI between 1974 and 1978, and others who presently face uncertain status.

"The future status of these members of our community bears enormous implications for the future of the CNMI's families, workforce, and businesses, and for our efforts to build a stronger, more sustainable, and more democratic commonwealth. We welcome and urge all who support the cause for improved status to come and be counted at this momentous event," she said.

To be continued.

\$5.2M

From Page 1

Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo's ruling also means \$815,000 in additional cost to the government for the remainder of FY 2009.

These are based on an analysis of data provided by the Department of Finance, according to House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Ray N. Yumul (R-Saipan). But he said yesterday there have been some discrepancies between numbers from Finance and the Fund.

The court had ruled in June that the central government owes the Retirement Fund \$231.6 million in unpaid

employer contributions, and that the law suspending government contributions to the pension system is unconstitutional.

Part of the ruling requires the Department of Finance to pay the Fund an employer contribution rate of 16 percent—instead of the current 11 percent—beginning with the pay period ending Aug. 14, 2009.

The judge also ordered Finance to pay the Fund 30 percent of the hotel occupancy tax and 20 percent of the alcohol beverage container tax starting Aug. 1, 2009.

"As we're preparing the 2010 budget legislation, among the many questions by members is, how much is the impact of Judge Govendo's ruling?"

Yumul said.

For August and September, which is the end of FY 2009, Yumul said Finance is looking at an additional cost of \$275,000 to pay 30 percent of the hotel occupancy tax and 20 percent of the alcohol tax to the Fund.

The 4 percent difference between the current 11 percent contribution rate and the court-imposed 16 percent means an additional cost of \$540,000 to the government.

These figures total \$815,000 in additional cost to the government for the remainder of FY 2009, Yumul said.

Raising the employer contribution rate to 16 percent from only 11 percent paid by the government will cost \$3.5 million in FY 2010 based on Finance figures.

But Yumul said Retirement Fund puts the amount at \$3.998 million.

"The difference could be the estimated number of employees enrolled. If there are fewer defined benefit plan members, the lesser the amount in contribution," Yumul said.

For the hotel occupancy and alcohol tax collection, the government will have to pay some \$1.690 million to the Fund.

These figures total close to \$5.2 million, which represent the additional cost to the central government, said Yumul. These contributions do not include those of autonomous agencies, except the Public School System, Northern Marianas College and Marianas Visitors Authority.

A review hearing on the Fund case

has been set for Nov. 2 in Govendo's courtroom.

"We may or may not modify the judgment but Finance has been ordered to start the payments or collecting the payments by August," said Yumul.

Senate President Pete P. Reyes (R-Saipan) and House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan) earlier called for a meeting with representatives from the Retirement Fund and the administration to talk about the impact of the court ruling on government finances. The meeting, set for yesterday, was cancelled.

Determining the impact of the ruling on government resources is critical to the preparation of budget legislation for FY 2010, which begins on Oct. 1.

EX-NMC

From Page 1

pronounced dead around 11pm.

Deleon Guerrero served as the college's chief executive officer from 2004 to 2006.

NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez expressed sympathy yesterday on the loss of the former leader.

"The Northern Marianas College community is saddened to learn of the passing of one of our college's most beloved leaders," said Fernandez. "He will be missed by everyone at the college."

Fernandez said Deleon Guerrero was instrumental in the growth of the

college and deserves credit for many of the significant successes and accomplishments that NMC are benefiting from today.

In her message to the campus community, Fernandez asked faculty, students, and staff to keep Deleon Guerrero and his family in their thoughts and prayers.

NMC Board of Regents chair Charles V. Cepeda said that during the former president's term, Deleon Guerrero made an extraordinary impact at the college by creating new partnerships and steering the institution toward continued growth and improvement.

Deleon Guerrero's contributions, Cepeda said, will have a long-lasting

effect on many students and college employees.

Galvin Deleon Guerrero, director of the Office of Institutional Effectiveness and a former NMC regent, said: "With a level-headed demeanor and a collaborative leadership style, Tony steered the college through some very rough waters.

"He brought stability and calm when it was needed most. He was a good man, and he will be missed," he added.

The former NMC president was the executive director of the NMI Council for the Humanities. He was hired to the position in January this year and was lauded for his dedication to the job.

The council's program officer, Scott Russell, said yesterday that within the

seven months he worked with Deleon Guerrero, he has seen the good side of the person.

"He's a very good person to work with. He looked after his staff and made sure that we're taken cared of properly," Russell told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that Deleon Guerrero aggressively pursued council business and initiated fundraisers to boost the council's donations.

NMI Council for the Humanities vice chair Charles Reyes Jr. described the executive director's death as "a very sudden and tragic loss" for the council.

"I have received e-mails from board members who expressed sadness about

the news and pledged to pray for Mr. Guerrero and his family. Mr. Guerrero was only employed for a few months before he passed away. He was in the process of being evaluated for permanent employment when he passed away," Reyes said, adding that board members were very satisfied with his performance as executive director and were prepared to offer Guerrero a more permanent employment status when they learned of his passing.

Reyes, also the administration's press secretary, said Gov. Benigno R. Fitial extends his condolences to the family.

"He knew Mr. Guerrero and was saddened to learn of his passing," he added.

Fund chair leaves his post with 'mixed' feelings

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

NMI Retirement Fund board chair Juan Pan T. Guerrero, who is running for governor in this November elections, resigned from his post yesterday, admitting to "mixed emotion" about stepping down.

"It is with mixed emotions that I tender my resignation as a chairman, and a member, of the trustees. While I am proud of the board's accomplishments during my tenure, there remains significant work in order to assure the continued viability of the Retirement Fund," Guerrero

Ex-NMI courts building super pleads guilty to possessing pot

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Former CNMI courts building superintendent Joseph R. Guzman entered a guilty plea yesterday to allegations of possessing 19 marijuana plants last year.

During an initial appearance hearing, the 48-year-old Guzman pleaded guilty to one count of misdemeanor.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson accepted Guzman's plea and the plea agreement and set the sentencing for Nov. 10, 2009, at 9am.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Eric O'Malley moved for the release of the defendant on conditions. Attorney Anthony Long, counsel for Guzman, agreed with O'Malley.

Munson ordered the temporary release of the defendant upon posting \$5,000 in unsecured bond.

Among the conditions for the release is that Guzman shall not commit any offense in violation

told board trustees and Gov. Benigno R. Fitial in a letter yesterday.

He urged Fitial to nominate a qualified and dedicated individual to replace him at the earliest possible time.

Guerrero cited as among the board's major achievements since 2006 the privatization of the group life and health insurance programs, the hiring of internal auditors, requiring the first-ever desk audit of the Fund's operation, as well as the implementation of the first-ever monthly monitoring of the government's credit union operations.

of federal state or local law. The defendant is also required to notify the U.S. Probation Office and get permission from the court prior to leaving the CNMI.

Guzman and his lawyer signed a plea agreement with the government. Under the agreement, the prosecution will recommend no more than 30 days in prison on Saipan. The prosecution will also recommend a fine of \$1,000 and \$100 special assessment fee.

The agreement stated that on July 22, 2008, Guzman was found in possession of 19 marijuana plants in various sizes.

Saipan Tribune learned that Drug Enforcement Administration agents used a helicopter to search for marijuana plantations on Saipan during a two-day operation in July 2008.

A few days after Guzman was questioned by DEA agents in that operation, the defendant resigned from his position as CNMI courts building superintendent.



Guerrero

Guerrero also cited the efforts of the board in working with the Legislature to bring about laws designed to protect the Fund's investment, the modernization of its computer systems, and the

increased fiduciary responsibility training for board members.

He admitted the board also made some changes that were controversial "but necessary" to protect the Fund, such as no longer allowing benefit payments to individuals whose employer contributions are deficient, enacting a moratorium on member refunds and withdrawals, as well as stopping post-retirement adoptions for purposes of fraudulently obtaining survivor benefits.

However, he is most proud of lawsuit the Fund pursued to collect on the CNMI government's employer contribution arrears and the \$231 million the CNMI Superior Court awarded the Fund.

"While I appreciate your con-

cerns about the award, I am sure you can understand the board's need to protect the interest of the Fund and its members in a manner more concrete than the continuing acceptance of assurances that the government will one day live up to its obligations to the Fund," Guerrero told Fitial in his letter yesterday.

He emphasized with the governor that, contrary to claims of some people and the Legislature, neither he nor the board ever expressed any interest in forcing a complete and immediate payment of the court judgment.

Guerrero urged Fitial to move ahead with negotiations with the Fund to ensure that the government pays the maximum amount it can afford "without

unnecessarily endangering the provision of critical services to the community."

He said the Fund will continue to face uncontrollable external challenges as long as it exists.

"Stock market fluctuations as we have endured over the past year and a half are certain as death and taxes, which is why it is critical to minimize the challenges to the Fund that government can control. While the Fund has been hobbled by the global financial crisis and the lack of employer contributions, it has become operationally stronger and more assertive in protecting the interests of its members," Guerrero said.

During yesterday's meeting, trustees expressed their gratitude to the outgoing chairman who they said worked hard to keep the Fund afloat.



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Face to Face with U.S. Congressman Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan

Fund warned vs taking sides in \$200M bond

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
Moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The investment consultant of the NMI Retirement Fund has warned the board of trustees against taking a position in the ongoing discussion related to the proposed \$200 million pension obligation bond being eyed to resolve the \$231 million debt owed the Fund.

Kenan J. Knieriem, first vice president of Merrill Lynch, told board members in yesterday's meeting that coming out with an official view on the issue would be disadvantageous to the agency.

Chairman Juan T. Guerrero had asked the consultant, based on the current CNMI situation, the likelihood of the planned pension obligation bond being initiated by the Legislature.

"It has been done before... but it's unlikely that they can float a bond now with the current credit rating of the government," Knieriem said, describing it as a "poor rating."

He emphasized that any pension obligation bond will be an obligation of the CNMI government and not the retirement agency.

"It would be better if the Fund would remain neutral on this [issue] and take no position," Knieriem added.

After hearing the presentation, Guerrero agreed that remaining neutral would be in the best interest of the Fund. He said that actively endorsing or not supporting the pension obligation bond may put the Fund in a position that may mislead the government and the people.

"Hearing from our investment consultant that our government credit rating is 'poor,' I do not believe that the legislative initiative that offered to float \$200 million to pay its obligation to the Fund would be placed in the November election ballots," Guerrero said.

He described the initiative as "poorly written."

He said that, since the beginning, the board had expressed its support only to the concept of floating a bond but did not participate on how it is structured as a legislative measure.

The House of Representatives approved an initiative that will add a new section to Article 10 of the CNMI Constitution to authorize the government to issue pension obligation bonds. This will allow the government to borrow up to \$200 million. If approved, it will take about 30 years to pay off the debt.

In May, rating agency Moody's Investor Service downgraded the CNMI's credit rating, citing key factors that include the demise of the garment industry and the substantial economic deterioration resulting from changes in the minimum wage laws.

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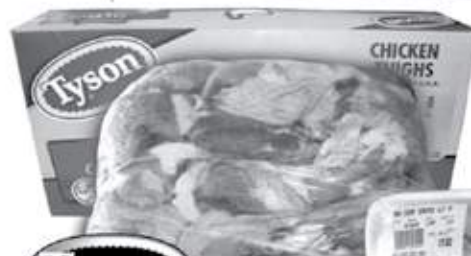


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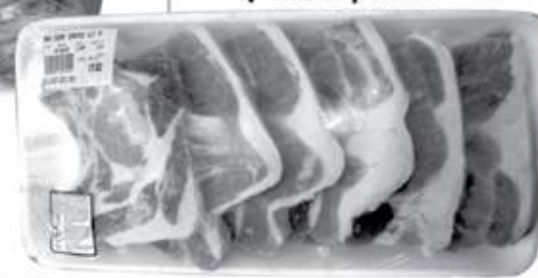


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Villagomez, Santoses pay \$1.2K assessment

Former lieutenant governor Timothy P. Villagomez, his sister Joaquina V. Santos, and her husband James A. Santos went to federal court yesterday afternoon to pay their \$1,200 court assessment fee.

Villagomez and the Santos couple entered the U.S. District Court for the NMI's clerk of court at 1:15pm. Joey San Nicolas, one of Villagomez's lawyers, accompanied them.

Saipan Tribune learned that Villagomez paid \$400 cash, while the Santos couple paid \$800 in check.

The \$400 court assessment fee was among the penalties imposed on Villagomez and the Santos couple.

As of yesterday afternoon, the defendants have yet to pay the restitution and fine.

During Wednesday's sentencing, Judge Alex R. Munson ordered the three to jointly pay \$346,125 in restitution to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

No fine was required of Villagomez, but the judge ordered the Santoses to each pay a \$25,000 fine.

If the \$346,125 restitution is not immediately paid after the sentencing, Munson said the defendants shall pay it while in prison and participating in the Inmate Financial Responsibility Program.

Munson said the payment shall be in regular monthly in-

stallments of 25 percent of the deposits in their inmate trust account and 25 percent of their inmate trust account while serving custody at a residential re-entry center.

"Any portion of the monetary obligation not paid in full prior to release from custody shall be due in monthly installments of \$300, or 10 percent of the [defendants'] gross income from employment, whichever is greater," the judge said.

Munson sentenced Villagomez to seven years and three months in prison for his role in the Rydlyme corruption scandal.

His sister and her husband were sentenced to six years and six months in prison each

for their involvement in the scheme to defraud CUC and the United States.

The defense lawyers had submitted to the court a petition for leniency in the sentencing of the defendants. The petition was signed by at least 650 persons.

Among the letters requesting for leniency was a joint letter signed by Senate President Pete P. Reyes, House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios, Tinian Sen. Henry San Nicolas, and Rep. Diego T. Benavante.

Numerous other letters of support and request for leniency coming from the defendants' family members, relatives, supporters, and friends, were also submitted in court. *(Ferdie dela Torre)*

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Aug. 7, 2000

DPS, cops sued for \$1M

A family from San Antonio on Friday filed a \$1 million civil suit in the U.S. District Court against the CNMI government, the Department of Public Safety and a dozen police officers, alleging illegal detention and manhandling during a series of arrests last year. Roman Taisacan Cabrera, his wife Isabelle Torres and their three sons Roman Jr., Ian and Aaron accused the police of negligence, recklessness and wantonness before, during and after the criminal arrests that occurred July 2, 1999 at their homes and at work.

U.S. AG asked to probe PCB mess

Greenpeace and Tanapag residents have pressed the U.S. Attorney General to investigate into the alleged gross negligence and violation of federal laws by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 9 in connection with the sloppy cleanup of a polychlorinated biphenyl-contaminated village. In a letter addressed to U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno, Greenpeace Pacific representative Dr. Arlene Griffen said the people of Saipan have been exposed to PCB tainted soils for over a decade due to the negligence of the U.S. government. Greenpeace has also asked the U.S. Secretary of Defense to order a complete cleanup of the sites and immediate evacuation of the residents from the community.

Aug. 7, 2001

Initiatives for Council, PSS dead

Two significant legislative initiatives—one increasing the mandatory funding for the Public School System and another empowering municipal councils—are now dead in the water after failing to make it to the August 6 deadline for inclusion in a referendum this November 3. Time run out on House Legislative Initiatives 12-001 and 12-004 after being stymied at the Legislature due to several amendments made on the measures by both chambers H.L.I. 12-001 seeks to increase the mandatory funding for the Public School System from 15 to 25 percent, while H.L.I. 12-004 sought to grant local municipal councils the power to pass local laws.

Filing of election documents closed

The CNMI Election Commission yesterday stopped accepting petitions from individuals seeking public office in this year's general polls. The election commission also closed the process of receiving other documents, including legislative initiatives, that are supposed to be decided by local voters in November. Executive Director Greg Sablan said preliminary documents filed by petitioners will be thoroughly screened before the official list of candidates is released. Based on the documents filed as of late afternoon yesterday, Sablan said no legislative initiative will be included in the ballot for this year's election.

Aug. 7, 2002

Babauta insists on deficit spending

Gov. Juan N. Babauta is insisting that he be given the authority to spend beyond the \$193 million level set for this fiscal year and, if the House of Representatives remains adamant in refusing to grant that request, then he may just go ahead and go over the budget ceiling, without the blessings of the lower chamber. Babauta told reporters yesterday that he may go to jail for this but he insists that his primary duty to ensure continued delivery of basic public services far outweighs any legal impediments thrown his way by the lower chamber. "I could go to jail for this. But, as Governor, I cannot allow public services to be jeopardized. I cannot stand idly by while a patient lies waiting to be flown off island; I cannot stand idly by while our students wait for their scholarship money. If I have to go over the \$193 million, then I would do it," he said.

Expansion of airport terminal completed

The Commonwealth Ports Authority has completed the construction of the expanded portion of the Saipan International Airport, giving a much needed facelift to the island's air transport facility. The CPA recently opened the west wing of the Saipan airport terminal, which houses three departure/arrival gates in addition to three other gates at the east side of the terminal building. The west wing of the Saipan International Airport departure area offers a spacious lobby that is complete with an open-air smoking area and an air-conditioned food court that add to the comfort and convenience of travelers waiting for their flight schedule.

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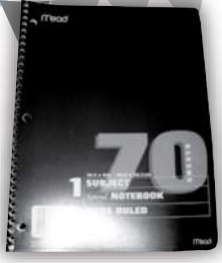
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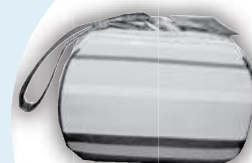
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Opinion

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EDITORIAL

A mercy-plus mission

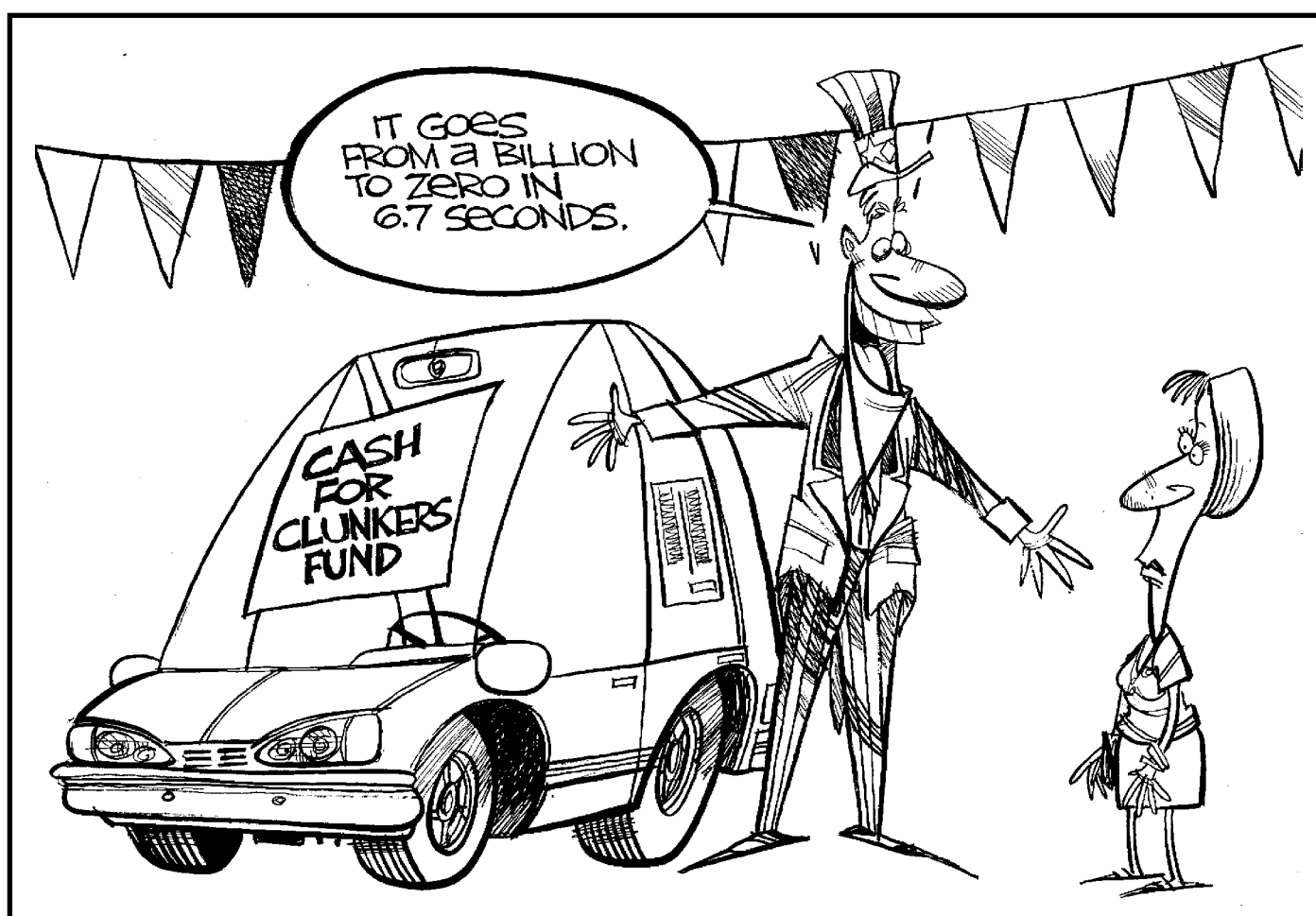
As soon as the images of former President Clinton alongside North Korean leader Kim Jong Il appeared, it seemed certain that freedom was at hand for two American journalists captured in March and sentenced to 12 years of hard labor on charges of hostile acts and entering the country illegally. Surely Clinton would not have agreed to make the trip to Pyongyang without a prior deal for their return. And yet this was North Korea, notoriously unpredictable, sometimes underhanded, and apparently holding the reporters for purposes of political blackmail. Anything could go wrong. Fortunately it didn't, and we are thrilled with the pardon and release of Californians Euna Lee and Laura Ling.

Right-wing critics wasted no time in attacking the former president's visit as rewarding hostage-taking and conferring legitimacy on a rogue regime. Although the White House described the trip as "solely a private mission," Clinton would not have undertaken it without a blessing from President Obama, or at least from Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton—his wife. Because North Korea desperately wants recognition from the United States, critics argue that the meeting was a big win for the dictator. It's possible that it was of some benefit to Kim, but it also was of value to the United States, which must protect its citizens as well as pursue strategic goals. This was not a zero-sum game.

The ailing Kim is trying to hand off power to his youngest son, Kim Jong Un, and like the country's recent nuclear tests and missile launches, the Clinton visit provided propaganda to demonstrate the strength of the family dynasty to those who might challenge it from within. But Clinton won the women's release, apparently without concessions from the U.S. government beyond a visit from a former president who is now a private citizen. There is ample precedent for such diplomacy in former President Carter's trip there to urge a freeze on nuclear-fuel reprocessing and in New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson's visit to recover remains of American servicemen killed in the Korean War.

Beyond the journalists' release, and perhaps more important, Clinton got the chance to look the reclusive Kim in the eye, to judge his state of mind and health and, quite likely, to hear firsthand Kim's demands in exchange for nuclear disarmament. That by no means suggests that the United States has abandoned U.N. sanctions, its allies in the neighborhood or its policy regarding the denuclearization of North Korea. It means that there was an opportunity to listen to Kim and to convey information to the Obama administration, which has offered time and again to engage with its enemies.

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Democracy was never meant to be party, party, party

In the Gilbert and Sullivan operetta "HMS Pinafore," Sir Joseph, a former member of the British Parliament who has been appointed lord admiral of the queen's navy, recalls how he achieved such great success: "I always voted at my party's call," he sings, "and I never thought of thinking for myself at all."

Sir Joseph would fit in well in the United States' party-driven political system in which loyalty to one's political club often seems to trump objective decisionmaking.

When a Senate committee voted in favor of Sonia Sotomayor's confirmation for a seat on the Supreme Court, every Republican but one voted no, even though she was obviously qualified and even her most insistent critics could find only a handful of decisions to quarrel with over a long judicial career. And not one Democrat voted no, even though Sotomayor had repeatedly indicated in speeches that it was a judge's background that mattered in decisionmaking rather than strict adherence to the rule of law. There were party lines to be followed, and the senators followed them.

Last month, when the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions became the first to vote out a health-care reform bill, not a single Democrat thought questions about the proposal, which included a government-run plan, were sufficient to raise doubts about moving forward. Not one Republican thought the current state of American health care justified the proposed legislation.

If legislators decided how to vote by weighing the concerns of their constituents, looking to their own philosophies of government and evaluating proposals on their merits, one might assume that at least one or two Democrats would have balked, and perhaps a Republican or two would have voted to go forward. But we don't live in that kind of political world.

The Washington Post published a review of Senate voting records at the end of the 110th Congress, which ended in January. Over the previous two years, Congress had taken up important votes on wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, approved billions of dollars of spending and wrestled with many other controversial and difficult issues. On average, Democrats voted with their party 87.5 percent of the time, and Republicans voted the GOP line 80.7 percent of the time; 44 senators voted with their party more than 90 percent of the time, 24 of them more than 95 percent of the time. So-called maverick John McCain voted with other Republicans more than 88 percent of the time.

Granted, there are distinctions in political philosophy that draw people to one party or the other (a natural coalescing), but it is nonetheless clear that there is far less independent thinking going on than good governance would demand. (California's two senators, incidentally, were among the worst: Barbara Boxer voted with her party 95.5 percent of the time; Dianne Feinstein, 94.2 percent.)

When I testified before the House Judiciary Committee against President George W. Bush's unconstitutional use of presidential signing statements (the Constitution allows a president two choices:

By MICKEY EDWARDS
Special to the Los Angeles Times

A former member of the Republican leadership in Congress, Edwards is a vice president of the Aspen Institute and is working on a book about political parties undermining democracy.



sign a bill and make it federal law or veto it; ignoring it is not an option), not a single Republican on the committee saw anything wrong with what the president had done. They later found the same practice unlawful when a Democratic president did it. When the House voted to hold White House staffers in contempt for defying a congressional subpoena, Republicans stomped out in protest.

At the time, I saw those incidents as signs that my fellow conservatives had abandoned their principles. But it was more than that: It was one more example of members of Congress voting as a team. Surely, when Bush's assistants defied congressional subpoenas, at least a few Democrats might have thought a president's claims of executive privilege had some merit, and a few Republicans might have been appalled at a chief executive thumbing his nose at the lawmaking branch of government. But again, that's not the world we live in.

James Madison and George Washington feared the advance of political parties. Of course factions would be formed; people of like interests would band together in coalitions. But those coalitions would shift as issues shifted. In a system designed to leave the people in charge of their own government, their representatives would assess issues and vote according to their best judgment of a proposal's merits.

Loyalty to party undermines the very essence of representative government, which depends on entrusting members of one's community to act in one's stead as an evaluator of legislative policy.

What author Peter Shane labeled "Madison's Nightmare" has come true: We live in a world of constant partisan warfare, a never-ending battle between "my club" and "your club," undermining the belief that a citizen's vote truly counts for something.

Political theorist Bernard Crick wrote that "politics is how a free people govern themselves." Strong political parties, on the other hand, are how a free people lose that ability. Parties choose which candidates can be on the November ballot, and do so in primaries and conventions that cater to the extremes. Parties reward fealty and discourage independence. In an earlier time, before the Internet, when it was hard to get information about candidates and they had to depend on party support for campaign funds and volunteers, political parties made sense; today, they are passe, black-and-white television, remnants of a time that has passed.

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Slip F-18, Saipan

Here's one of my favorite quotes, pretty much my mantra when I flee to the beach to avoid my worldly concerns: "I am weary of the whole dreary deadening structured mess we have built into such a glittering, top-heavy structure that there is nothing left to see but the glitter, and the brute routines of maintaining it."

That's from Travis McGee, a fictional character penned into life by the late John D. MacDonald. To a dedicated fan of that novel series, Travis' cynical, insightful, and irreverent wit made him seem more real than most real people are. Well, at least more real than the workaday drones you leave behind when you flee the Big City for Saipan.

McGee lived aboard a houseboat at slip F-18 at Bahia Mar Marina, Fort Lauderdale, Fla. The marina does, in fact, exist, and I once made a pilgrimage to it. Slip F-18 was marked with a small plaque, and, in my case, nothing else, since I neglected to take my camera.

I tried to build a mental image of McGee there, but all I could envision was McGee on Saipan. Saipan is far more exotic than Ft. Lauderdale, so we do justice to McGee's romantic, devil-may-care lifestyle.

McGee was a professional adventurer, of sorts, who would enjoy a beach bum life when he had no projects boiling, and who would have all manner of adventures when various capers came his way. He was the ultimate freelancer, a beach and maritime version of a private eye or operative-for-hire.

He had a taste for beautiful, if sometimes troubled, women. He had a distaste for cheesy real estate developers, greedy vulgarity,

corruption, and much of the mundane nit-wittery of modern life; but he wasn't a carping, kumbayyah whiner about it. His best friend and sidekick, Meyer, was an economist who, like McGee, was an independent thinker. Meyer's erudition added some polish to McGee's sometimes rough-hewn street smarts.

I'm not generally a fan of fiction. In fact, with the exception of the Travis McGee series (21 books), I doubt I've got more than 30 novels on my shelves. I hide the McGee collection so people don't try to borrow them (don't even ask), but I'm sure the Commonwealth has some Travis McGee fans. McGee adds some Jimmy Buffet seaside zest to the old hard-bitten detective genre.

As for author John D. MacDonald, he held an M.B.A. from Harvard, and was also an Army officer in WWII, discharged as a Lt. Colonel. Though he had the skids greased for success in business life, he instead pursued his interest in writing. He started out by churning out pulp fiction, some of which I've managed to buy from used bookstores and, yeah, it was pretty pulpy pulp. As near as I can figure, it was 19 years from his first published piece (1945) to the publication of his first Travis McGee book (1964). He wrote a lot of other books, too, but the Travis McGee series is certainly what he's famous for. MacDonald passed away in 1986.

McGee's philosophical soliloquies are famous. Google will point you to various compilations of pithy quotes. I always assumed these were the reason for the success of the series. But just to make sure, I called an old friend who is also a McGee fan.

"Actually, the appeal of the McGee books is the escapism," said

By ED STEPHENS

Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday. Visit Ed at TropicalEd.com and SaipanBlog.com.



my friend, who pointed out that McGee didn't have a boss, or a job, or dependents, or any other encumbrances in life. McGee had won his houseboat in a poker match, and he owned his car free and clear, so he only had to work for slip-rental and beer (actually, gin for McGee) money. He was a man who lived by his gumption and reputation, had a cadre of loyal and interesting friends, and, what's more, lived in a place he found intrinsically enjoyable.

I don't know about winning a boat, but, aside from that, I've known plenty a man on Saipan who has come pretty close to living that ideal.

Saipan's Bestseller books does not keep the McGee series in stock, but the books are still in print. Bestseller advised me that they can special order them and, in fact, they're holding one such specially ordered book ("Nightmare in Pink") for a Saipan customer right now, and the price was \$8.99. So thanks to the literary trail, Travis McGee is alive and well, and still making friends, in Saipan.

Why am I waiting?

By EDWARD CORNETT, M.D.

SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Waiting times for the Emergency Department has gotten much attention from the press in recent months. However, no real reason for "why" has been put forth to explain the issue or better yet educate the public on the matter. Long waiting times in emergency departments have long been a sore subject not only in the CNMI but in North America as well. Various reasons exist as to why this happens. We will look at some of the reasons here.

Triage, meaning to "sort out," is a "fundamental process" which is part of every well-organized emergency department and serves as the starting point of any emergency department visit. It is here where the emergency department visitor is placed into an "acuity category," meaning how many emergency department resources are needed to address the problem at hand regarding this patient's medical complaint. Example: A 65-year-old male with chest pain and a prior history of heart problems will most likely consume several emergency department resources, e.g., EKG, X-ray, laboratory studies, IV line, oxygen, monitoring. This patient then has a "high acuity category" and will take priority over a patient with a lower "acuity category," for example a toothache for three days that obviously will not consume many emergency department resources outside of a medical screening examination at minimum. And of course cardiac arrest and trauma supersede at all times. I think you can see the overall picture regarding the "triage" principle. To summarize, it is not who "is at the window first" that determines "who is seen first or next." Purely and simply put, the "McDonalds drive thru window" approach does not work for access to emergency care. Waiting is the price paid for using the emergency department for non-emergent primary care health complaints.

Once assessment and treatment have been initiated, additional

parameters affect how long the patient being treated will remain in the emergency department, as well as how long will the "waiting to be seen" patient have to wait. What are these additional parameters? To start, waiting to obtain ordered laboratory study results as well as waiting for X-ray readings and the completion of treatments started in the emergency department are the major parameters to contend with. These times can be variable depending on the nature of the test ordered by the physician and time required to effect treatments in the emergency department. Good care takes time! Then there may be the needed time to consult with other physicians who may be taking care of the patient in question. Often, the wait for an open, clean hospital bed may require some time to obtain for those patients it has been decided need to be admitted to the hospital. One important point here: Good care takes time! Also, waiting time to "be seen" is also influenced by the numbers of high acuity category patients that are being attended to at the time by the physician and nursing staff in the emergency department. Rushing is not an option in emergency medicine. Quick and rapid response in a critical life saving procedure, however, is a different story and is the core of why emergency departments exist.

Triage is a *process* that is best left to the medical professionals who know it and should not be construed as a personal or political-social issue or viewed as favoritism in getting care.

The issue of referral to outpatient clinics has also been mentioned in the press on several occasions and it has been unfairly labeled as "refusing to be seen." The referral to an outpatient clinic is an option given after the triage process has occurred and it has been determined that a very low acuity category has been established. What does this mean? It means that no immediate life- or limb-threatening condition exists and you will eventually be seen in the emergency department but *not emergently*. Again, the McDonalds drive-thru window approach does not work for access to emergency care.

How many doctors should the emergency department have? This is based on the number of patient visits to the emergency department. Patient visit volume and acuity categories together determine the number of doctors needed. Normally patient visit volumes of up to about 20,000 per year require only one emergency physician on duty. Emergency departments also make use of physician assistants who are licensed to render treatment under the supervision of a licensed physician in the emergency department. I can tell you for a fact that your hospital, CHC, is adequately covered at all times. There is *never* not adequate physician coverage at CHC in the emergency department. At no time is there ever *no doctor* there. The Emergency Department at CHC has a physician as well as a physician assistant on duty at all times.

What makes one an emergency physician? Their training and learned skills define this. Like other doctors who choose to be surgeons, pediatricians, nephrologists and so on, emergency physicians pursue training in recognizing and treating life- or limb-threatening medical conditions. This consists of three years of training after graduation from medical school and occurs for the most part in Level 1 or Level 2 trauma centers. Upon completion of the training or "residency period" a certification examination is taken to test the knowledge and skill base that is needed to practice effectively as an emergency physician. These physicians are then known to be "certified emergency physicians." This same process occurs in all medical specialties, i.e., pediatricians, surgeons, internal medicine, orthopedics, radiology and so on. CHC is fortunate to have many certified physicians who practice there.

I trust this clarifies some points on emergency departments and how they function as well as an overview of medical specialty training. Good care takes time!

Dr. Edward Cornett is a former chairman of Emergency Medicine and director of Medical Affairs at the Commonwealth Health Center.

US congressional delegation visit

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

The U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources will be visiting the CNMI starting tomorrow to look into federalization of labor and immigration and its impact on the local economy. We welcome our national policymakers to our side of the Pacific. We hope that through a synergistic working relationship we can revisit and amicably resolve differences on these matters via collective prisms.

Before the founding of our country in 1776, political theorist and philosopher John Locke developed a theory that government derives its power and authority from the consent of the governed. This principle was echoed and re-echoed by others who actively took part in the founding of a great country some 233 years ago. It is upon this principle that the political relationship was founded and fostered between the CNMI and the U.S. in 1975.

There are two salient aspects of the Covenant Agreement that seemed to have been violated. They are: 1). The right of governance to a greater degree of self-government. 2) The obligation of our benefactors in Washington to develop a higher standard of living for our people in the incipency of our government. These aspects of the agreement may have been violated by the shortsighted imposition of federal laws that only accelerated destruction of an economy now in the ICU eyeing a trip to the morgue. Our discontent and discordance prompted the dire necessity to file a lawsuit in federal court to retain (like the 29-plus states in the union today) local sovereign rights to greater degree of self-government.

The central issue that we gave up in the Summer of 1975 was "indigenous sovereignty" with enthusiastic hope that the new relationship would gradually bring us not necessarily closer to the American Dream, but a decent livelihood premised on trust, respect, dignity and integrity. Indeed, we have seen otherwise,






which sapped our aspirations for brighter tomorrows. The prevailing though deepening conditions are beyond our ability and capability to infuse resuscitation with appreciable success and not when we hail from a resource-poor group of islands. Therefore, we have seen fit to defer to our national policymakers for help in hopes that they would allow us the opportunity to rebuild what's left of our ravaged economy.

Finally, I may be vilified or rebuked for my viewpoint but silence or passivity isn't an option either. Indeed, we reach for our rich cultural heritage, revisiting time and again the strengths of traditional resiliency to improve upon difficult situations. Sadly, we find ourselves once more at a juncture when we must descend from our canoe to repair our torn sails. Shower us with your fountain of wisdom and inspiration. We hope that when we use our oars paddling out to sea together, we can leave the harbor re-establishing the hopes and aspirations of our people that were so powerfully ingrained in their hearts in the Summer of 1975.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. South winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 87° ▼ 78°	▲ 87° ▼ 78°	▲ 87° ▼ 78°	▲ 87° ▼ 78°	▲ 87° ▼ 78°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 77
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲ 87 ▼ 78
Yap	Thundershowers	▲ 87 ▼ 77
Chuuk	Showers	▲ 88 ▼ 76
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲ 86 ▼ 78
Kosrae	Showers	▲ 88 ▼ 78
Majuro	Rain	▲ 84 ▼ 78

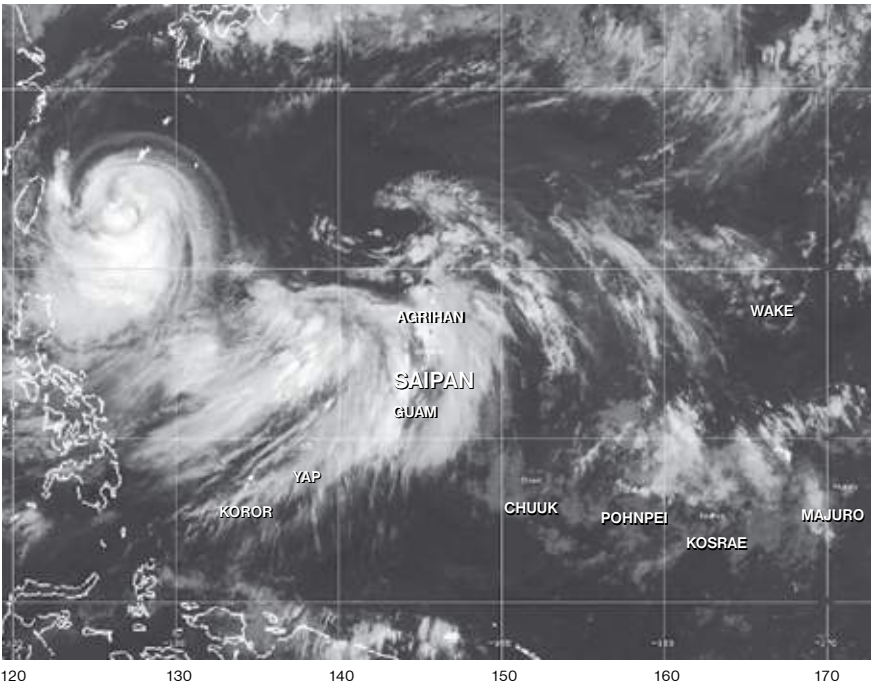
Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲ 60 ▼ 43
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲ 93 ▼ 72
Hong Kong	Showers	▲ 91 ▼ 82
Honolulu	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 78
London	Showers	▲ 73 ▼ 55
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲ 80 ▼ 62
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲ 82 ▼ 78
Melbourne	Rain	▲ 58 ▼ 45
Miami	Thundershowers	▲ 91 ▼ 79
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲ 81 ▼ 68
Osaka	Thunderstorms	▲ 84 ▼ 77
Paris	Thunderstorms	▲ 78 ▼ 59
Pusan	Rain	▲ 75 ▼ 71
Rome	Sunny	▲ 91 ▼ 62
Salem	Partly Sunny	▲ 76 ▼ 55
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲ 67 ▼ 56
Seoul	Showers	▲ 84 ▼ 68
Tokyo	Rain	▲ 82 ▼ 76
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲ 85 ▼ 68

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
2:40 AM Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
7:39 AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
2:47 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
9:25 PM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

The monsoon trough extends southeast from Typhoon Morakot located south of Okinawa near 23N127E across the Marianas then through a weak circulation north of Kosrae near 10N163E to end near Kwajalein. Winds converging into the monsoon trough and upper level divergence associated with an upper low centered near 23N142E are triggering widespread shower activity and isolated thunderstorms over a large area from 11N to 18N between 131E and 148E including the Marianas. The circulation near north of Kosrae is producing scattered showers from Pohnpei to Kwajalein from 7N to 11N between 159E and 166e.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:01 AM	6:45 PM
Saturday	6:01 AM	6:44 PM
Sunday	6:01 AM	6:44 PM
Monday	6:01 AM	6:43 PM
Tuesday	6:02 AM	6:43 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	7:28 PM	6:42 AM
Saturday	8:03 PM	7:30 AM
Sunday	8:38 PM	8:17 AM
Monday	9:14 PM	9:05 AM
Tuesday	9:52 PM	9:55 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
 - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
 - Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 21, 2009

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP) C09597 11:50am 12:25pm 1, 7	ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN C09598 3:15am 3:50am 5, 6 C09312 1:20pm 1:55pm 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM C09597 12:50pm 1:20pm 1, 7	GUAM-ROTA (ROP) C09598 2:10am 2:40am 5, 6 C09312 12:10pm 12:40pm 6
SAIPAN-GUAM C09317 4:20am 5:10am Daily C09313 8:30am 9:20am Daily C09597 11:50am 1:20pm 1, 7 via ROP C09601 12:30pm 1:20pm 4, 5 C09603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily C09605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily C09599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily	GUAM-SAIPAN C09598 2:10am 3:50am 5, 6 via ROP C09316 2:20am 3:10am 1, 2, 3, 4, 7 C09596 7:00am 7:50am Daily C09600 10:20am 11:10am 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 C09312 12:10pm 1:55pm 6 via ROP C09602 2:00pm 2:50pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C09604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily C09606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) C0941 5:30am 8:05am Daily NW99 6:05am 8:40am Daily NW78 9:00am 2:05pm Daily via NGO NW75 3:50pm 6:25pm Daily C0943 5:25pm 8:00pm Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN C0942 9:25am 1:55pm Daily NW76 10:00am 2:35pm Daily NW77 6:35pm 1:40am+1 Daily via NGO NW100 8:45pm 1:20am+1 Daily C0944 9:00pm 1:30am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX) OZ119 4:00am 6:40am 1, 3, 4, 6	OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN OZ120 9:55pm 2:20am+1 2, 3, 5, 7
SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO) NW78 9:00am 11:40am Daily	NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN NW77 9:10pm 1:40am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:20am 6:50am 1, 4, 5, 7	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:00pm 2:20am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ604 2:20am 6:00am 1 OZ604 2:50am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ119 4:00am 11:20am 1, 3, 4, 6 via KIX OZ606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2, 4, 6, 7	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN OZ605 9:00am 2:30pm 2, 4, 6, 7 OZ120 7:10pm 2:20am+1 2, 3, 5, 7 via KIX OZ603 7:40pm 1:10am+1 7 OZ603 8:10pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) FM844 2:50am 5:40am 2, 6	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN FM843 7:15pm 1:50am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) CZ3008 3:30am 6:40am 2, 6	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN CZ3007 7:30pm 2:40am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA OZ604/701 2:20am 11:25am 1 via ICN OZ604/703 2:50am 11:25am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C09603/933 3:30pm 8:40pm Daily via GUM C09599/PR11 9:30pm 7:45am+1 1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	MANILA-SAIPAN OZ702/603 12:45pm 1:10am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/603 12:45pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN PR110/C09596 10:00pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM C0934/9596 10:55pm 7:50am+1 Daily via GUM OZ704/605 11:50pm 2:30pm+1 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
SAIPAN-HONG KONG OZ604/721 2:20am 11:45am 1 via ICN OZ604/721 2:50am 11:45am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	HONG KONG-SAIPAN OZ724/605 12:30am 2:30pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN OZ722/603 1:15pm 1:10am+1 7 via ICN OZ722/603 1:15pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily
Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123*	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125*	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

ON BISHOP CAMACHO'S SUCCESSOR

No word yet from Vatican

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Vatican has yet to name the successor of Rev. Tomas Aguon Camacho as bishop of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa, with just a little over a month left before his 76th birthday on Sept. 18.

Camacho is one of 20 active bishops, including three cardinals, who have already turned 75.

At age 75, bishops are asked to submit their resignation to the pope, which Camacho did last year. But until now, the Vatican has yet to act on his letter of resignation.



Camacho

CK Vicar General

Rev. Manuel R. Corcuera said there is a certain unit or office in the Vatican that should approve and name the successor.

Corcuera said Camacho is still the bishop on a continuous capacity until a successor is named.

Last year, the *Saipan Tribune* named Camacho as its Person of the Year.

According to the Catholic News Service, more than two dozen bishops in the U.S. could retire for age reasons in 2009. Eleven of them will turn 75 this year.

The three cardinals are Bernard F. Law, archpriest of St. Mary Major Basilica in Rome; Edward M. Egan of New York, whose 75th birthday was April 2, 2007; and J. Francis Stafford, a Baltimore native who marked his 75th birthday July 26, 2007, has been the Vatican's major penitentiary since 2003.

The other active U.S. bishops who are already 75 are Bishop Manuel Batakian of the Eparchy of Our Lady of Nareg in New York; Auxiliary Bishop John M. Dougherty of Scranton, Pa.; Archbishop Elden F. Curtiss of Omaha, Neb.; Bishop James A. Murray of Kalamazoo, Mich.; Bishop James M. Moynihan of Syracuse, N.Y.; Bishop John M. D'Arcy of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Ind.; Archbishop Alfred C. Hughes of New Orleans; Bishop Arthur N. Tafoya of Pueblo, Colo.; Bishop Edward P. Cullen of Allentown, Pa.; Bishop William L. Higi of Lafayette, Ind.; Bishop Bernard J. Harrington of Winona, Minn.; and Auxiliary Bishop Robert P. Maginnis of Philadelphia.

The 11 currently active bishops who will turn 75 in 2009 and their birthdays are: Auxiliary Bishop Francis X. Irwin of Boston, Jan. 9.; Bishop Edmond Carmody of Corpus Christi, Texas, Jan. 12; Archbishop Alexander J. Brunett of Seattle, Jan. 17; Bishop Raymundo J. Pena of Brownsville, Texas, Feb. 19; Auxiliary Bishop Ignatius Wang of San Francisco, Feb. 27; Bishop William S. Skylstad of Spokane, Wash., March 2; Bishop Patrick R. Cooney of Gaylord, Mich., March 10; Bishop Robert J. Hermann, apostolic administrator of St. Louis, Aug. 12; Archbishop Daniel E. Pi-

larczyk of Cincinnati, Aug. 12; Archbishop Eusebius J. Beltran of Oklahoma City, Aug. 31; and Auxiliary Bishop Guy Sansaricq of Brooklyn, N.Y., Oct. 6.

Meanwhile, Bishop Camacho will preside over a Mass concelebrated by the Clergy of Diocese of Chalan Kanoa at 7:30pm today at the Mount Camel Cathedral.

The Mass is intended to honor the late Philippine President Corazon Cojuangco Aquino, who was widely known for her closeness to the Catholic Church.

Camacho is inviting everyone to join him and the clergy

in prayer for the late Philippine president through this Eucharistic celebration and in a spirit of solidarity and support to the Filipino community living in the Commonwealth, especially those who have served and continue to serve the people of God through the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa.

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AUGUST 22, 2009 - GARAPAN, SAIPAN

No water supply in As Matuis homestead today

Water outage in I-Akgak, portions of As Teo tomorrow

The As Matuis Homestead areas will have no water today, Aug. 7, 2009, from 8am to 5pm.

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. said the outage is necessary to allow the Water Task Force's contractor RNV to connect a new booster station to the distribution system for delivery of water into these areas. Customers in these areas are advised to expect intermittent service disruptions as the contractor conducts pressure adjustments and equipment tests.

Customers along the high elevation areas of As Matuis Homestead can expect reduced pressures during this testing period. Once final pressure adjustments are completed, normal water service will be restored to all affected customers.

CUC has also scheduled a water outage in I-Akgak and portion of As Teo areas tomorrow, Saturday, Aug. 8, 2009, affecting customers residing along Papago Drive and down on Santa Lourdes Road.

The water outage will last from 7:30am to 6:30pm. On Sunday, Aug. 9, 2009, customers along these areas can expect low water pressure. Water service will be restored to affected customers as soon as the work is completed.

In a statement issued yesterday, CUC said its Water Division distribution maintenance crew is scheduled to work on the Agag Reservoir to seal all holes and openings, inspect, clean, and disinfect the storage tank. This required work is necessary to protect treated stored water and provide improved overall water quality for public consumption.

This work will enable the Water Division to comply with the stipulated order concerning drinking water operations and maintenance in correcting major sanitary deficiencies cited during storage tanks inspections.

Residents are encouraged to practice strict water conservation and to teach children and household workers to save water, especially during this period. Rainwater catchment systems, water tanks should be cleaned and float valves installed or replaced to ensure that water does not overflow from tanks. (PR-CUC)

Members of the Chamorro Dictionary Revision Team continue their efforts to revise the 1975 edition of the Chamorro-English dictionary, as well as other Chamorro language reference materials, during a recent meeting at the Northern Marianas College As Terlaje campus. The three-year collaborative project, which is funded by a grant awarded by the Northern Marianas Islands Council for the Humanities from the National Science Foundation, is nearing the end of its first year and is reportedly close to completing revisions for the dictionary. Former education commissioner and current NMC regent Dr. Rita H. Inos serves as the lead facilitator of the project and was instrumental in getting the college to donate its services with filming and broadcasting the meetings. The project is also co-directed by retired educator and former NMI Humanities Council board chair Dr. Elizabeth D. Rechebei and Dr. Sandra Chung, professor of linguistics at the University of California at Santa Cruz.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CHAMORRO DICTIONARY

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BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday to mother-and-son Roxanne R. Maratita-Weaver and Justis Maratita Tenorio and our hero, Kevin Reyes Maratita, who are celebrating their special day today. May you all have a wonderful and joyful day with laughter and fun. May God bless you all, most especially to Kevin Reyes Maratita for his safe return home, who is serving in Iraq. Greetings coming out from friends and family!



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MARIANAS SWEET SHRIMP

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5-day breastfeeding technique seminar for entire WIC staff

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The entire staff of the CNMI WIC Program, the special supplemental nutrition program for women and infants up to 5 years old under the Department of Public Health, will be undergoing a five-day seminar on breastfeeding techniques next week at the Tanapag Head Start.

Because of this, the WIC clinics on the three islands of Saipan, Tinian and Rota will be closed from Aug. 10 to 14, from 8am to 4:30pm.

The seminar is called "The Lactation Counselor Certificate Training Program."

Resource persons from the Healthy Children's Center for Breastfeeding from Massachusetts will be conducting the seminar.

WIC program clinic manager Dianne Esplin, RD, said the various health care providers and early childhood educators from the three islands would also be

participating in the seminar.

She said some 50 of them have already registered for the seminar that will primarily teach them about the benefits of breastfeeding and proper care.

"We're hoping to learn more about the health benefits of breastfeeding, and how to help moms and babies have successful breastfeeding experiences," Esplin said.

She said this is timely, as the first week of this month is World Breastfeeding Week.

The U.S. States Breastfeeding Committee joined organizations from more than 120 countries to celebrate World Breastfeeding Week with the theme *Breastfeeding: A Vital Emergency Response. Are You Ready?*

This year's focus is to draw attention to the vital role that breastfeeding plays in emergencies worldwide and to stress the need for active protection and support of breastfeeding before and during emergencies.

Low turnout at presentations always a challenge for DEQ

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Despite announcements in media outlets and posting of notices in public places and government offices, only a small number of participants usually show up for Division of Environmental Quality presentations on its programs and projects, posing a challenge to the agency.

The same held true during the public presentation about the Brownfields Program hosted by DEQ and the Department of Public Lands on Wednesday night at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

In fact, there were more presenters and support staff who came than the number of attendees from the public. Aside from four participants from the public, two were from the media.

DEQ's Site Assessment and Remediation manager Ray Masga lamented this seeming lack of interest, saying they obviously need to brainstorm on how to conduct future presentations.

Wednesday's forum aimed to promote and build community awareness and support for the Brownfields program, which aims to clean up contaminated sites.

The two presenters from DEQ were Masga, environmental specialist Ed Manibusan and DPL assistant manager for the Brownfields Program Mario Cepeda. They were joined by DEQ technical adviser Jim Callier, another DEQ staff and a student with the Workforce Investment Agency.

A Brownfields site is a piece of property whose expansion, redevelopment, or reuse may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant.

DEQ and DPL currently have funding under the Brownfields program to conduct Phase I and II Environmental Site Assessments. The funding use is to support the potential redevelopment of prospective sites that meet the definition of Brownfields.

Masga discussed the various contaminants that can be addressed under this program, its goals, and other issues.

He also discussed the environmental liability of interested individuals or companies that want to acquire the property as well as the type of grants under the DEQ or DPH Brownfield Programs.

Masga also identified the areas included in the inventory as well as potential Brownfields sites.

Manibusan explained the two phases of the so-called environmental site assessment and the process in which the public may request for a site assessment.

Manibusan also presented some of the potential areas, including private and public lands that could be converted for eco-tourism purposes.

"We really need public support to put things forward," said Callier.

One of the attendees suggested that this could be the time where members of the Legislature would come into the picture.

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2X4X18 - \$5.00	2X4X18 - \$8.80
2X4X20 - \$6.10	2X4X20 - \$9.60
2X6X12 - \$6.70	2X6X12 - \$10.00
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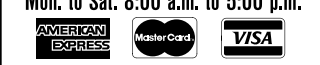
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R09-011B	2005	ECHO 4DR	AUTO	71652	GRAY	ADK-841	8,699	4,999
R08-019F	2005	COROLLA 4DR	AUTO	41092	WHITE	ACD-346	10,799	8,599
R09-010F	2006	COROLLA 4DR	AUTO	59360	SILVER	ADO-711	11,999	9,999
N/A	2007	COROLLA 4DR	AUTO	20421	WHITE	ADW-292	12,399	
N/A	2007	COROLLA 4DR	AUTO	20083	SILVER	ADW-312	12,399	
N/A	2007	COROLLA 4DR	AUTO	18092	RED	ACH-404	12,399	
U09-052L	2007	YARIS 4DR	AUTO	46775	WHITE	ACE-266	11,499	9,999
N/A	2007	YARIS 4DR	AUTO	29173	WHITE	ACD-727	11,499	
N/A	2007	YARIS 4DR	AUTO	26200	WHITE	ACD-687	11,499	
N/A	2007	YARIS 4DR	AUTO	25037	BLUE	ACG-450	11,499	

TOYOTA SUVs

N/A	2006	RAV4 4X4 LTD	AUTO	58313	SILVER	ACE-760	13,399	
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GM CARS

R07-013F	2005	AVEO HATCHBACK	AUTO	39164	ORANGE	ADO-022	9,599	6,899
R07-034F	2005	OPTRA 4DR.	AUTO	14592	SILVER	ACD-020	10,999	7,499

OTHER CARS & TRUCKS

U07-034T	2000	NISSAN MAXIMA GXE 4DR.	AUTO	68648	WHITE	ACT-812	10,999	6,999
U09-045T	2003	VOLKSWAGEN NEW BEETLE 2DR	AUTO	48440	GREEN	ABX-844	6,999	5,999

GM VAN

R09-009F	2003	CHEVY EXPRESS VAN 15-PAX	AUTO	142674	WHITE	BUS-1079	5,999	
N/A	2007	CHEVY EXPRESS VAN 15-PAX	AUTO	55365	WHITE	BUS-1223	18,399	



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Alleged troublemaker arrested for assaulting 2 men

An intoxicated man was arrested on Wednesday for allegedly assaulting two men for no apparent reason at a store in Garapan.

Felipe Lieto Kalen, 49, was arrested for assault and battery,

and disturbing the peace. He was freed on a \$100 cash bail and \$2,400 unsecured bond.

Detective Vince Salas stated in his report that Kalen assaulted two men at QQ Store in

Garapan on Sunday at 2am.

Salas said one victim suffered minor abrasions on the right elbow and knee when Kalen pushed him.

Salas said police investiga-

tion showed that the intoxicated Kalen had approached a customer outside QQ Store and challenged him to a fight. The person ignored the defendant and walked away.

Kalen then approached another man and pushed him on the chest. The person fell to the ground.

When another male customer went inside the store, the defendant followed him and pushed his head.

A witness called police. It was not clear whether he was arrested

that morning. Police served the arrest warrant on Wednesday.

Police said Kalen is known for being a troublemaker whenever he gets drunk. Last June 1 the defendant also allegedly caused a disturbance at Millennium Plaza in western Garapan. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**

Fund's motion to dismiss Kiyu's lawsuit placed under advisement

The federal court placed under advisement yesterday the NMI Retirement Fund's motion to dismiss the lawsuit filed by former senator Thomas P. Villagomez's against the Fund.

After listening to the arguments, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson stated that a written decision would be forthcoming.

The Fund's board of trustees

asked the court to dismiss Villagomez's complaint and dismiss the board as defendants in the lawsuit.

At the hearing, attorney Deborah Fisher represented the

Fund trustees. Assistant attorney general David Lochabay appeared for the CNMI government. Attorney Ramon Quichocho represented Villagomez.

Fisher and Lochabay argued

the motion. Quichocho argued the opposition to the motion.

Villagomez, through Quichocho, sued the Fund for allegedly refusing to pay his retirement benefits.

"This case is about the Retirement Fund's double-standards, and how it must end," said Quichocho.

Villagomez also named as co-defendants Fund administrator Mark A. Aguon, the board of trustees, and 10 un-

named persons.

The plaintiff asked the court to order the defendants to pay him damages, attorney's fees, and court costs.

In the motion to dismiss, the Fund asserted that in order for Villagomez to establish a valid claim, "he must show that a person acting under the color of state law committed the conduct at issue, and that conduct deprived him of some right, privilege or immunity." **(Ferdie de la Torre)**

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COAST GUARD BIRTHDAY

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Lt. Jay Katz and Marine Science Technician First Class Michelle Duty wear raincoats as they raise one of four U.S. Coast Guard flags at the Court of Honor, American Memorial Park on Monday during the 219th celebration of the founding of the U.S. Coast Guard. "We are proud to celebrate the (U.S. Coast Guard's) 219th birthday with the National Park Service. We look forward to serving the residents of the CNMI for many years to come," Katz said.

Learn to protect yourself from fraud

HAGATNA, Guam—The Bank of Hawaii will be hosting part three of its series of financial education seminars throughout the islands. In "Protecting Yourself Against Fraud," attendees will learn how to help keep themselves or their loved ones from becoming a victim of fraudulent schemes and scams.

Bank of Hawaii Smart Money

seminars will feature a variety of topics on financial matters throughout the year.

The seminars are free to the public—customers and non-customers—and are led by financial experts from Bank of Hawaii. No products or services will be sold at the seminars, and no promotional materials will be distributed. The sessions are intended to be strictly educational.

For additional information on upcoming topics and seminar schedules, go to www.boh.com/pacificseminars or call the Bank of Hawaii coordinator listed below. Speakers are also available free of charge to community organizations; send a request via email to the addresses listed below.

GUAM - Hagatna Branch

Aug. 26, 5:30pm - 7:pm
134 Soledad Avenue
Hagatna, Guam
Calvin Hernandez
Tel: (671) 479-3566
Email: Calvin.Hernandez@boh.com

SAIPAN- Garapan Branch

Aug. 26, 5:30pm - 7:pm
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Improve your Korean language skills at NMC

The Northern Marianas College, through the Division of Community Programs and Services' Community Development Institute, is offering short-term classes to those who wish to improve their Korean language skills.

This is an intermediate conversational course designed to reinforce the fundamentals of the Korean language. This proficiency based foreign language course also focuses on developing listening, comprehension, vocabulary, and expressions to be able to

communicate in Korean.

The Intermediate Korean Language Development Course will begin on Aug. 18 and end on Sept. 11, 2009. The course will be taught by Daniel Huh and will take place from 5pm to 6pm on Tuesdays and Fridays at the NMC As Terlaje campus. The course fee is \$55.

All interested individuals should register before the start of the first day of class. Certificates of competence will be awarded to registered students who com-

plete all course requirements. Full payment is required for admission to the course.

To register or to obtain more information, you can visit the CDI Office in Building P at the NMC Campus in As Terlaje, contact CDI at 234-5498 ext. 1005, or email John Manalo at johnm@nmcnet.edu. You can also log on to www.nmcnet.edu.

The classes, which are designed to improve individual knowledge and specific skills,

are geared around actual workforce needs and experiences based on course surveys, community needs assessments, and

interviews with employers.

The courses are offered as part of the college's mission to provide customized, continu-

ing educational and professional development opportunities in response to community needs. (NMC)

Marpi closed today for detonation

The Marpi area will be closed off today, Aug. 7, 2009, from 12pm to 3pm for a detonation operation and members of the public, particularly tour and dive operators, farmers, joggers and bikers, are being warned to stay away from the area for their own safety.

The general location of activity will be at the Laderan Lagoon Cliff Line, about a mile north of the Marpi landfill. The grid co-

ordinates are 15 degrees, 16.11 minutes 0.0865 seconds North and 145 degrees, 49 minutes 0.3313 seconds East and 5,000 feet above sea level.

The only area that will not be closed off will be Suicide Cliff, which will be the main viewing point for the detonation. Public access to Suicide Cliff is allowed only through the road leading up to the Far East

Broadcasting antenna for viewing purposes.

The Department of Public Safety will set security posts to enforce and control traffic movement for safety purposes.

The detonation will be jointly conducted by DPS, the Emergency Management Office, and the U.S. Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal Detachment Marianas. (PR)

We would like to wish a very happy 2nd birthday to Carlos Joe DLG! May you have many more wonderful birthdays to come! May God bless you and we love you! From the family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday to Ryan Litulumar a.k.a. "Ryho," who is celebrating his 17th birthday today. Best wishes from your brothers, sisters and your mom and dad on your special day! We love you!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NMC English, Math placement test schedules

The Northern Marianas College will be conducting English placement tests on the following dates:

- Aug. 13 5pm - 8pm D-1
- Aug. 14 9am - 12pm D-1
- Aug. 21 9am - 12pm A-5

NMC math placement tests will be conducted on the following dates:

- Aug. 11 10am - 12pm D-1
- Aug. 11 5pm - 7pm D-1
- Aug. 13 10am - 12pm D-1

Those who wish to take courses at NMC must take the placement tests. Registration for NMC's Fall 2009 semester will begin on Aug. 17 and end

on Aug. 21.

Placement test takers must bring a valid photo ID (driver's license, passport or school ID) and pencils. No admittance to the testing room will be allowed after the starting time. Calculators may be used when taking the math placement test.

There is a \$25 fee for each placement test that must be paid in advance at the NMC Cashier (Monday-Friday, 9am - 4pm). No one will be allowed into the testing room without proof of payment (a receipt for the placement test fee, or the NMC application fee). Payment for

the application fee will cover the English placement test fee.

If you have any questions about the English placement test, call Mark Haag at the Languages & Humanities Department at (670) 234-5498 Ext. 2017 or Mona Camacho at Ext. 1242.

If you have any questions about the math placement test, call the Sciences, Mathematics, Health & Athletics Department at 234-5498 Ext. 1200 or 1210.

For additional information about the placement tests and registration for the Fall 2009 semester, log on to <http://www.nmcnet.edu/>. (NMC)

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REPUBLICAN PARTY OF 2009 GOP C

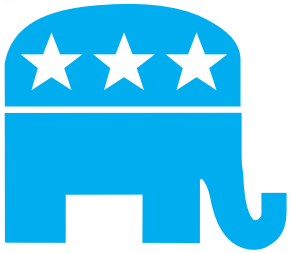
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Governor



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Republican!*



Donald Pangelinan Flores
(Mayor-Saipan)



SENATORS



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Reyes**
(Incumbent - Saipan)



**Ralph Deleon Guerrero
Torres**
(Saipan)



**Jude Untalan
Hofschneider**
(Incumbent - Tinian)



**Frank Quichocho
Cruz**
(Tinian)



**Joseph Pinaula
Deleon Guerrero**
(Precinct 1 - Incumbent)



**Ramon Angailen
Tebuteb**
(Precinct 3 - Incumbent)

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THE NMI ASSOCIATION CANDIDATES

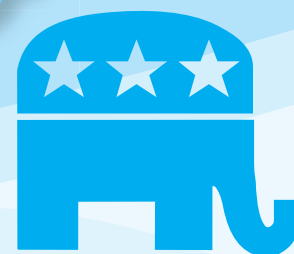


Arnold Indalecio Palacios
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(Mayor-Tinian)



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Diego Tenorio Benavente
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Janet Ulloa Maratita
(Precinct 1)



Eliceo "Eli" Diaz Cabrera
(Precinct 1)



Antonio "Tony" Pangelinan Sablan
(Precinct 1)



Joseph Mafnas Palacios
(Precinct 1)



Ray Naraja Yumul
(Precinct 3 – Incumbent)



Frank Santos Dela Cruz
(Precinct 3 – Incumbent)



Danny Iwashita Aquino, Jr.
(Precinct 3)



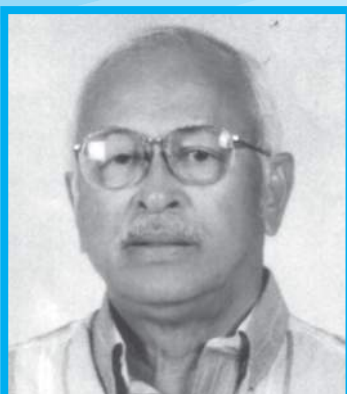
Ramon Sablan Salas
(Precinct 3)



Jesus Manibusan Castro
(Precinct 3)



El Agulto morio
(Precinct 2)



Frank Deleon Guerrero Camacho
(Precinct 4)



Juan Reyes Babauta
(Precinct 4)



Rosemond Blanco Santos
(Precinct 5 – Incumbent)



Jose Sablan Demapan
(Precinct 5)



Trenton Brian Conner
(Precinct 6 – Tinian)

Small Pacific island nations call for big carbon cuts

By MAKERETI KOMAI
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

CAIRNS, Australia (AP)—Island nations are the least responsible for climate change but will bear the brunt of its ill effects, Australia's leader said Wednesday, as a group of small Pacific states called for a 45 percent cut in greenhouse gas emissions by 2020.

The seven smallest island nations in the Pacific Islands Forum said deep cuts in emissions are vital as they seek to protect their low-lying countries from rising sea levels, which are eating away coastlines, polluting freshwater sources and killing off fruit-bearing trees and plants.

Leaders of the countries—which are members of the 16-nation forum meeting this week in Cairns, Australia—expressed concern at the “seri-

ous and growing threat posed by climate change to the economic, social, cultural and environmental well-being and security” of their populations.

Many scientists agree that carbon dioxide and other harmful gases are warming the planet and melting ice caps, gradually raising sea levels. Those that are pressing for a dramatic reduction in these gases include Kiribati, the Marshall Islands and Tuvalu—all of which have coral atolls no more than 10 feet (3 meters) above sea level and are among the most vulnerable to rising waters. The Cook Islands, Nauru, Niue and Palau also joined the call.

Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, in a speech to open the forum's annual leaders' summit, said climate change was “the great challenge of our time.”

“The nations of the Pacific are

particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and Pacific island nations are among the least responsible for the causes of climate change,” he told delegates. “But they will bear the brunt of its impact the most.”

Speaking alongside Climate Change Minister Penny Wong and Vanuatu Prime Minister Edward Natapei, Rudd said climate change could lead to storm surges, flooding and erosion, which could have severe economic impacts in sectors like agriculture, fishing and tourism.

He called for concerted action from world leaders to commit to aggressively cutting carbon emissions at the international conference on climate change coming up in Copenhagen in December.

He pledged that Australia will argue forcefully for such cuts at the conference on behalf of the Pacific region—including



In this image provided by Greenpeace, protestors scale the rigging of a 50-meter (164-foot) high coal loader at a coal terminal in Mackay, Australia, Wednesday, Aug. 5, 2009, to stop its operation. The protestors demanded that Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, who is attending the Pacific Forum, back calls to drastically cut greenhouse gas emissions.

some of the most vulnerable states in the world.”

In preparation for the summit in Denmark, the seven small countries adopted on Tuesday the position of the global Association of Small Islands States that asks developed nations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 45 percent by 2020 and 85 percent by 2050, said Toke Talagi, premier of the micro state of Niue.

“The small island states have agreed we must make a very strong stance with respect to the greenhouse gas emis-

sions,” he said.

Countries in the group were the most vulnerable to global warming but had little leverage in the global debate because they wield little or no diplomatic or economic clout, he added.

The small states also urged larger countries such as Australia to allocate more aid to help them prepare for inundation.

Tuvalu Prime Minister Apisai Ielemia said his country needed help with plans to build sea walls around Tuvalu's cluster of nine atolls to prevent erosion and to switch from diesel to so-

lar energy to help it become carbon neutral by 2020.

Other nations say they are facing an even more dire future.

Kiribati President Anote Tong has warned the islands of his nation of 94,000 people will disappear during this century if seas continue to rise at currently recorded rates.

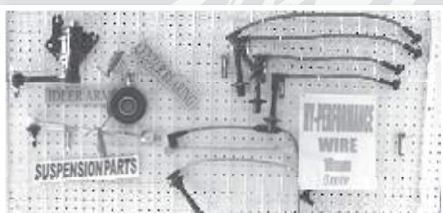
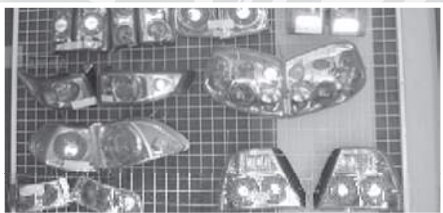
The Smaller Islands States said they are committed to “Pacific-tailored approaches” to support adaptation to, and mitigation of, climate change impacts. They will also seek relocation for climate change refugees.

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****** TINIAN: Local Contact: Joseph Borja, Jr. (670) 433-0164 or 888-1233**

Business

Senate reaches deal on \$2B 'clunkers' refill

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Senate reached a deal on saving the dwindling “cash for clunkers” program late Wednesday, agreeing to vote on a plan that would add \$2 billion to the popular rebate program and give car shoppers until Labor Day to trade in their gas-guzzlers for a new ride.

Following lengthy negotiations, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid said Democrats and Republicans had agreed to vote on the plan Thursday, along with a series of potential changes to the bill, which was passed by the House last week. Reid has said Democrats have enough votes to approve the measure and reject any changes that would cause an interruption in the rebates of up to \$4,500.

Reid said the agreement “accomplishes what we need to accomplish.”

Late Wednesday, it was not clear that any of the proposed amendments stood a chance of passing. Some of them included placing an income limit on those benefiting from the vouchers and requiring the government to sell off its

stakes in General Motors Co. and Chrysler Group LLC.

Any Senate changes to the bill would require another vote in the House, something that couldn't take place until the House returns in September from a monthlong recess.

The government said Wednesday that more than \$775 million of the \$1 billion fund had been spent, accounting for nearly 185,000 new vehicles sold. President Barack Obama has said the program would go broke by Friday if not replenished by Congress.

Administration officials have estimated the additional \$2 billion could fund another 500,000 vehicle sales and last into Labor Day.

That's the same day the Senate was to follow the House into the August recess, a looming break that Senate leaders often use to prod their colleagues past standoffs.

“We all acknowledge there's a significant majority that want to move forward with this legislation,” Reid, D-Nev., said earlier in the day, adding that he has the votes to approve the House-passed version as is.

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Ofisinan I Gubietno
Dipattamenton I Tano’ Pupbliku

Priniponen Atkilon Tanu Publiku

Notisia ginen i Depattamienton Tanu Publiku: Guaha priniponen atkilon tanu publiku espesifikamiente Tanu Numeru 076 D 15, paku mas o’menus 3,000 metru kuadrao minidoñña gi katan estatuan Matsue giya Garapan. I mapa yan todo infotmasion pot este na tanu gaige gi depattamienton tanu giya Dandan, segundu bibi-enda gi Joeten Dandan Building.

I para u inatkila este na lugat i Marianas Fitness, Ltd., un’ kompania guine. I membron kuetpon este na kompania i sigiente siha: Russel D. Quinn, Marian Aldan-Pierce, Rexfod C. Kosack, Yoshio S. Gabaldon, Kanae S. Quinn, Richard A. Pierce, Clarie S. Kosack, Angela Gabaldon, Christopher J. Nelson, and Brett D. Nelson.

I offisiat siha i sigiente: Russell D. Quinn, presidente; Marian Aldan-Pierce, segundu presidente; Rexford C. Kosack, secretari; yan Yoshio S. Gabaldon, tesorariu. I kontratan este na atkilon manegosiu as Señor Kosack yan Señora Aldan-Pierce.

I umatikila este na tanu publiku libre umusa i lugat pot bisnis eksisiu taimanu i gaige pago na fasilidat gi Marianas Fitness, Ltd. I tetminon atkilon bente siñku años (25 years) yan apportunidat ma-ekstenden este na atkilon talu kinse años (15 years).

I atkilon tanu kada sakan guaha figura mapega halom guine na kontrata segun i balin i lugat ni monhayan esta marikonose gi hilu i mafananaan “appraisal” ripot (katkulon balin tanu) ginen un’ kualifikao na kompania.

I Depattamenton Tano taya otro plano ha resibe gi uson este siha na propiadat publiko giya Garapan, Saipan.

Kopian este na proposito gaige gi todo offisinan tanu publiku entalu Luta, Tinian yan Saipan. Libre kada sudadanu rumikonose este na dokumentu. I kabesanten depattamintun tanu publiku siña in’ tigie’ yangin guaha sentimentun miyu pot i mapropopone. Este na anunsio areglon Lai Publiku 15-2. I uttimu haanen muna’ halom opiniön i Agosto dia 7, 2009 gi todo Offisinan Tano Publiku giya Saipan, Tinian yan Luta.

ARONGORONG REEL POMWOL AKKILONUL FALÚWEER TOULAP

Sángi Tálil ye 106 (b) mellól Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, Bwulasiyool Ammwilil Falúweer Toulap ekke atotoowow ammataf igha ebwe akkilaaló eghús falúw mellól Seipél, Commonwealth Téél Falúwasch Marianas. Schóókka eyoor máfiyeer rebwe isisilong aghiyghiir, aweewe, aingiingil reel pomwol akkilonul ammwelil falúweer toulap me bwal Alléghúl Toulap ye 15-2, e ayooora, lamal aweewe kka rebwe mweiti ngáli milikka ebwe akkatééló.

- i. Pomwol akkilonul falúweer toulap nge ekke bwáári Lot No 076 D 15, eyoor eluuw sangaras llapal (3, 000 square meters), elapeló me ngáre eghús, elo Liyo, Luuta. Tilighial bwuley yeel nge eyoor mereel Bwulasiyool Falúweer Toulap (Public Lands) ngáre óubwe ghuley fischiy.
- ii. Schéschéél schóól akkilon nge Marianas Fitness, Ltd., CNMI corporation. Schóóy Assamwoolul mwiisch (board of directors) mellól corporation nge Rusell D. Queen, Marian Aldan-Pierce, Rexford C. Kosack, Yoshio S. Gabaldon, Kanae S. Quinn, Richard A. Pierce, Clarie S. Kosack, Angela N. Gabaldon, Chistopher I. Nelson, me Brett D. Nelson..

Samwoolul (President) corporation nge Russell D. Quinn.. Árúschayíl assamwool (vice president) me Marian Aldan-Pierce. Sekkeretorio nge Rexford C. Kosack. Treasurer nge Yoshio S. Gabaldon..

- iii. Schóól aweweel akkilon nge Mr. Rexford C. Kosack me Ms. Marian Aldan-Pierce..
- iv. Schóól akkilon ebwe yááli bwuley reel mwóghutufisch ngáre leliyal ammey (fitness gymnasium) fengál me wiisal,.

Tool aighúghúl pomwol akkilon nge reweigh me limoow ráágh (25 years), emmwel rebwe sóbweey ngáli bwal seigh me limoow ráágh (15 years).

Pomwol akkilon yeel llól alongal ráágh nge ebwe mwir sáangi llapal méél falúw (value of the property) me bwal meeta kka e akkayú mellol bwuley yeel.

- v. Tilighial akkilon yeel nge emmwel óubwe bwughi mereel bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap, elo aruwowal pwó (2nd floor) me Joeten Dandan Commercial Building llól Tutturam, Seipél; aruwowal pwó (2nd floor) mellól Bank of Saipan Commercial Building, Luuta; me ngáre mmwal pwó (1st floor) mellól Kings Commercial Building, Tchúlúyól.
- vi. Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge esáál bweibwogh mwo pomwol akkilon ye elo Arabwal, Seipél..
- vii. Samwoolul Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge ebwe bwughil ischil mángemáng, aingiingil mereel amweyút mmwal August (Elúwel) 7, 2009 mellól Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap iye elo Seipél, Luuta, Tchúlúyól.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to lease certain public lands in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

- i. The proposed lease of public land is described as Lot No. 076 D 15, containing an area of approximately 3,000 square meters, more or less, situated in Garapan, Saipan. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands for inspection.
- ii. The prospective lessee is Marianas Fitness, Ltd., a CNMI Corporation. The Board of Directors of the Corporation are Russell D. Quinn, Marian Aldan-Pierce, Rexford C. Kosack, Yoshio S. Gabaldon, Kanae S. Quinn, Richard A. Pierce, Clarie S. Kosack, Angela N. Gabaldon, Christopher J. Nelson, and Brett D. Nelson.

The President of the Corporation is Russell D. Quinn. The Vice President is Marian Aldan-Pierce. The Secretary is Rexford C. Kosack. The Treasurer is Yoshio S. Gabaldon.

- iii. The proposed lease was negotiated by Mr. Rexford C. Kosack and Ms. Marian Aldan-Pierce.

- iv. The lessee shall use the premises solely for the purpose of operating an all-purpose fitness gymnasium and other related support facilities.

The term of the proposed lease agreement is 25 years, with an option to extend the lease for an additional 15 years.

The proposed annual rental during the term is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the property, including existing structure(s).

- v. A copy of the proposed lease agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; the 2nd floor of the Bank of Saipan Commercial Building, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.

- vi. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public land in Garapan, Saipan.

- vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before August 7, 2009 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

Nation

US journalists ‘home and free’ after NKorea pardon

BURBANK, Calif. (AP)—Two American journalists held captive in North Korea since March endured meals of rice with rocks, more than four months of isolation and the constant fear they would be sent to a gulag.

Facing sentences of 12 years hard labor, they were allowed only sporadic contact with each other, let alone the outside world. Then, suddenly this week, they were brought into a meeting with none other than Bill Clinton, who helped win their release and flew home with them for a tearful reunion with their families.

“We could feel your love all the way in North Korea,” an emotional Laura Ling said. “It is what kept us going in the darkest of hours and it is what sustained our faith that we would come home.”



Ling



Lee

Ling and Euna Lee sobbed and embraced their husbands and Lee’s 4-year-old daughter, Hana, in the sleek hangar of a

Burbank airport after a 9 1/2-hour flight from Japan. It was the last stop following their release from North Korea after an unusual diplomatic rescue mission headed by the former president.

In a voice shaking with sobs, Ling recalled how their time in captivity came to an abrupt end after she and Lee were summoned

to a meeting and found the former president standing there.

“We were shocked but we knew instantly in our hearts that the nightmare of our lives was finally coming to an end, and now we stand here, home and free,” she said.

While questions swirled about the delicate negotiating dance that led to their release, Ling only talked about their gratitude to be free and their desire to quietly get reacquainted with their families.

Neither woman offered details of their treatment in North Korea, which has a reputation for a brutal government and has struggled through famine. But Ling’s sister later told reporters that her sister was “a little bit weak” and it would take some time for her to gather her wits and speak about her captivity.

Obama promises health overhaul with or without GOP

WAKARUSA, Ind. (AP)—President Barack Obama said Wednesday he’s determined to get an overhaul of the health care system before the end of the year and, if necessary, without bipartisan support.

His comments reflected a growing sense among Democrats that they may have to carry the legislation to expand coverage and try to control medical costs with votes from lawmakers of their own party—or at best a handful of Republicans.

Visiting economically stressed Indiana to announce \$2.4 billion in taxpayer grants for electric cars and tens of thousands of jobs, Obama pledged successful conclusion of the health care overhaul that he argues would stabilize the nation’s fiscal health.

“I promise you, we will pass reform by the end of this year because the American people need it,” the president said.

That will take some doing, since action on legislation in the House and Senate has been slowed by divisive policy arguments. Republican leaders oppose the Democrats’ approach, and they’re saying Congress should start over. But in an interview after his speech, Obama said he is not wedded to a bill with Republican as well as Democratic support.

He said he is encouraged that a small group of three Democratic and three Republican senators on the Finance Committee continue to negotiate, but signaled impatience with protracted talks that haven’t yet produced legislation.

Gunman at Pa. health club was bitter over women

BRIDGEVILLE, Pa. (AP)—George Sodini seethed with anger and frustration toward women. He couldn’t understand why they ignored him, despite his best efforts to look nice. He hadn’t had a girlfriend since 1984, hadn’t slept with a woman in 19 years.

“Women just don’t like me. There are 30 million desirable women in the US (my estimate) and I cannot find one. Not one of them finds me attractive,” the 48-year-old computer programmer lamented in a chilling diary he posted on the Internet.

For months, he also wrote vaguely about using guns to carry out his “exit plan” at his health club, where lots of young women worked out.

On Tuesday, Sodini put his plan into action.

He went to the sprawling L.A. Fitness Club in this Pittsburgh suburb, turned out the lights on a dance-aerobics class filled with women, and opened fire with three guns, letting loose with a fusillade of at least 36 bullets.

He killed three women and wounded nine others before committing suicide.

“He just had a lot of hatred in him and (was) hell-bent on committing this act, and no one was going to stop him,” Allegheny County Police Superintendent Charles Moffatt said Wednesday.

The 4,610-word Web diary appeared to be a nine-month chronology of his plans to end his misery with a shocking act of carnage at the health club. He portrayed himself as painfully and inexplicably lonely.

ACROSS THE NATION

Fla. Newlywed arrested in alleged plot on husband

MIAMI (AP)—A South Florida woman was arrested Wednesday for allegedly hiring an undercover police officer to kill her husband of six months, authorities said. Dalia Dippolito, 26, was charged with solicitation to commit first-degree murder and taken to the Palm Beach County jail, Boynton Beach Police Department spokeswoman Stephanie Slater said. Bond had not yet been set and it was unclear if she had an attorney. Dippolito gave an informant pictures of her husband, 38-year-old Michael Dippolito, and \$1,200 for a hit man to purchase a handgun, according to a probable cause affidavit. She also offered to create an alibi for herself and detailed her husband’s daily schedule.

Parole for Manson follower, would-be Ford assassin

HOUSTON (AP)—The Charles Manson follower convicted of attempting to assassinate President Gerald Ford is set to be released from a federal prison in Texas later this month after serving more than 30 years behind bars. Lynette “Squeaky” Fromme was a 26-year-old disciple of the cult murderer Manson when she aimed a semiautomatic .45- caliber pistol at Ford in September 1975 in Sacramento, Calif. Secret Service agents grabbed her and Ford was unhurt. Fromme, now 60, is scheduled to be released on parole from the Federal Medical Center Carswell in Fort Worth on Aug. 16, according to the Federal Bureau of Prisons and the court-appointed attorney who represented her at trial.

Asia

ASIAN BRIEFS

Hiroshima mayor calls for abolishing nuke weapons

HIROSHIMA, Japan (AP)—Hiroshima’s mayor urged global leaders on Thursday to back President Barack Obama’s call to abolish nuclear weapons as Japan marked the 64th anniversary of the world’s first atomic bomb attack. In April, Obama said that the United States—the only nation that has deployed atomic bombs in combat—has a “moral responsibility” to act and declared his goal to rid the world of the weapons. At a solemn ceremony to commemorate the victims of the Aug. 6, 1945, attack, Hiroshima’s Mayor Tadoshi Akiba welcomed that commitment.

China executes 2 men for defrauding investors

BEIJING (AP)—China executed two businessmen for defrauding hundreds of investors out of more than \$127 million, calling the scam a serious blow to social stability, state media said Thursday. China puts to death more people than any other country, although last month a high official for the Supreme People’s Court, which reviews every death sentence, said the punishment should be used more sparingly.

Filipinos bid farewell to democracy icon Aquino

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Former Philippine President Corazon “Cory” Aquino was laid to rest Wednesday next to her assassinated husband after a funeral procession joined by hundreds of thousands of supporters who hailed her as an exemplar of moral leadership.

About 600 priests and nuns linked arms around the Aquino mausoleum at the Manila Memorial Park to keep back the crowd who followed the flatbed truck with her flag-draped coffin on its final, nine-hour journey through the rain-soaked streets of the capital.

The procession went from the Manila Cathedral on a 14-mile (22-kilometer) route jammed with Filipinos dressed in yellow—the signature color of the 1986 prodemocracy uprising led by Aquino that toppled dictator Ferdinand Marcos. Many in the crowds flashed the “L” sign for “laban,” or fight, in Filipino—an anti-dictatorship slogan—and chanted “Cory.”

Aquino was buried Wednesday evening inside a simple white-painted tomb next to her husband, Benigno “Ninoy” Aquino Jr., the opposition leader whose mantle she reluctantly took on after his 1983 assassination when he returned from exile in the U.S. to run against Marcos.

Despite a patchy record during her six years in office as the 11th president of the Philippines, she remained a beloved figure. She died on Saturday after a yearlong battle with colon cancer. Her passing prompted an immense outpouring of grief.

“Nobody can replace her,” said real estate agent Jessa Roche, 31, who recalled how as a child her parents had taken her to the “people power” demonstrations that transformed the Philippine politics after two decades of authoritarian rule.

“She taught us to pray and fight for our democracy. If a tyrant will return, there will be millions of Corys who will stand up. She left a good example and the next generation should continue that legacy,” she said.

Former presidents Fidel Ramos and Joseph Estrada, the latter deposed in a second popular uprising in 2001 on corruption allegations, attended Wednesday’s requiem Mass. They were joined by East Timor President Jose Ramos-Horta.

“I think the greatest tribute that Filipinos can pay to Corazon Aquino and so many others who gave their lives for democracy is ... there should be no more dictatorships again,” said Ramos-Horta. Aquino inspired East Timor’s struggle for inde-



The casket containing the remains of former Philippine President Corazon ‘Cory’ Aquino are brought to her burial site in Paranaque City, southern Manila, Philippines Wednesday Aug. 5, 2009.

pendence from Indonesia a decade ago, he said.

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, who was at odds with Aquino after she called for Arroyo to resign because of vote-rigging allegations, paid a quick visit to the wake Wednesday morning upon her return from an official trip to the U.S. and left before the church ceremonies and procession.

The Aquino family rejected offers by Arroyo for a state funeral, but the armed forces gave full military honors.

At the burial, weeping family members, including Aquino’s grandchildren and sons-in-law, lined up to kiss the former president’s remains in the open casket.

Senior officers then carried the casket and placed it inside the tomb while honor guards fired a 21-gun salute before playing “Taps.”

Relatives, friends, supporters and military commanders placed yellow roses inside the tomb before it was sealed. The crowd sang the patriotic song

“Bayan Ko (My Country),” which was popular during the anti-Marcos struggle.

Earlier, in a tearful message of thanks to the multitudes of mourners, Aquino’s youngest daughter Kris said, “You have given our family honor beyond anything we could ever have hoped to receive.”

“No matter how great the sacrifices of my parents, I can honestly say to all of you that for my family, the Filipinos are worth it.”

During her time in office, Aquino faced down seven coup attempts, mostly by officers who had pushed for Marcos’ ouster and felt they had not been given their share of power.

While she brought political change, Aquino struggled to meet high public expectations. Her land redistribution program fell short of ending economic domination by the landed elite, including her family. Her leadership, especially in social and economic reform, was often indecisive, leaving many of her closest allies disillusioned by the end of her term.

Aquino stepped down in 1992, refusing to seek another term and reminding people that her mission—the restoration of democracy—had been completed.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
P.O. Box 10007, Saipan MP 96950
Telephone no. (670)236-0903 • Facsimile no. (670) 236-0990

NOTICE OF CLOSURE APPEALS CASES

Friday, August 7, 2009, First Notice
Friday, August 14, 2009, Second Notice

Each of the appeals listed below has been adjudicated and closed by the Department of Labor. In each case, this is a final agency action. All claims, including all claims for money damages, and all claims for eligibility for transfer, have been either adjudicated or dismissed. Any appellant or appellee listed below who has not been served personally with the Secretary’s order adjudicating or dismissing case is now, as of the date of second publication of this notice, served with the order. A person served by means of this publication may obtain a copy of the Secretary’s order from the Executive Secretary. A person whose claim has been dismissed by the Administrative Hearing Office has fifteen (15) days from the date of second notice in which to appeal the order. This publication does not affect any prior order served personally or by mail on any person.

Any appellant or appellee who has a claim covered by or a part of any of these cases that has not been adjudicated or included in a final order of the Secretary should report to the Executive Secretary at the Department of Labor, second floor, Afetna Square Building, San Antonio on or before August 31, 2009 with the necessary documentation with respect to the claim.

Case No.	Appellant	Appellee
L.C. #08-135	Cruz, John John H.	Sablan, Ramon M.
D.C. #08-971	Ha Young Corporation (Employer) and Kang, Byung Dong (Employee)	Director of Labor
L.C. #02-199	Huang, Xiao Bai (Employee)	New Saipan Development Inc. (Employer)
Request for Extension of Time to Transfer	Li, Zhi Qiu	N/A
L.C. #08-190	Liu, Yuehan	United International Corporation
D.C. #08-318	Nagpacan, Edwin G.	Director of Labor
L.C. #05-240	Qian, Meiling	Song Yong Jun dba Banana Karaoke Bar
L.C. #07-208	Rasalingam, Kanagasabai	TKL Ents., Inc. dba American Joint Partners, Ltd.
L.C. #06-194 and CAC #06-071-06	Wu, Qi Chen	Takai, Rosie
Request for Extension of Time to Transfer	Zhang, Wei Lin	N/A
L.C. #05-282	Zhou, Ai Ju	Concorde GMT., Mfg., Corporation

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2009 and 2010

RFP – 09-10 – MPLT - 01

The Marianas Public Land Trust (MPLT) and the Office of the Public Auditor are soliciting proposals for the financial and compliance audit of MPLT for the two fiscal years ending September 30, 2009 and 2010. Separate audits and reports are to be performed and issued for each year. The audit shall be performed in compliance with the following guidelines:

STANDARDS:
The audit shall be performed in accordance with Generally Accepted Auditing Standards and Government Auditing Standards (for Audit of Government Organizations, Programs, Activities and Functions issued by the Comptroller General of the United States).

REQUIRED REPORTS:
The audit report shall include the auditor’s opinion on the financial statements, the auditor’s report on the study and evaluation of internal control systems, which must identify the organization’s significant internal accounting controls, and the auditor’s report on compliance with laws, regulations, grants, and contracts.

Proposals must at least have the following information:

TITLE PAGE:

1. Requests for Proposal Subject
2. Name of CPA or CPA firm
3. Local address and telephone number
4. Name of contact person and submission date

TRANSMITTAL LETTER:

1. Briefly state your understanding of the audit to be performed. Include an affirmative statement that your firm can perform and complete the work within the time period specified.
2. State a comprehensive fee for which the work will be performed.
3. Briefly describe your work plan, and state the target dates for the entrance and exit conferences and for the delivery of the draft and final audit report package.

COMPANY’S PROFILE:

1. Provide a brief description of the proposer, firm-personnel, educational background and experience, number of staff and staff level (partner, manager, etc.), and client listing.
2. The proposer must make an affirmative statement or provide supporting document to state/show that: (1) at least the partners are CPAs, (2) it meets the independence requirement of the Standards For Audits of Governmental Organizations, Programs, Activities, and Functions, (3) it does not have a record of substandard audit work, (4) it meets all specific requirements imposed by CNMI laws and other regulations, and (5) its system of quality control for accounting and auditing practice is in conformity with standards established by the Peer Review Board of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.
3. The proposal should identify Principals/Partners, Audit Managers, and other staff members who will work on the audit. Resumes including relevant experience and continuing education for in-charge auditors up to the partner with final responsibility for the engagement should be included.

PROPOSAL EVALUATION CRITERIA:
The proposal will be evaluated on the basis of the following criteria:

1. Responsiveness of the proposal in clearly stating an understanding of the scope of the work to be performed and completing the work on time (percentage weight 25%).
2. Qualifications and experience of the firm (percentage weight 25%).
3. Qualifications and technical competence of the staff to be assigned. Education, position in the firm, and years and types of experience will be considered (percentage weight 25%).
4. Audit fee (percentage weight 25%).

Cost is not expected to be the controlling factor in the selection of a Contractor for this solicitation. The degree of importance of cost as a factor could become greater depending upon the equality of the proposals for the other factors (the listed criteria) evaluated; where competing proposals are determined to be substantially equal (within 3%), total cost would become the controlling factor. In that event, the best and final cost/price may be requested from the offers that are substantially equal. The right to award based upon the cost/price submitted with the offer, however, is reserved, if the cost/price is determined fair and reasonable for the services.

One (1) original and five (5) copies of the proposal shall be submitted to:

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST
Morgen Building, 1st Floor
Suite #106
P.O. BOX 501089
SAIPAN, MP 96950

The deadline for submission of proposals is August 17, 2009. The contract for this audit will be awarded by August 24, 2009 and the audit work can commence on November 15, 2009 and 2010. The final audit reports shall be completed and delivered by January 31, 2010 and 2011.

Inquires may be directed to Redie Dela Cruz, Office Manager at telephone number (670) 235-4401, by fax (670) 235-4450, or by email at mpltp@pticom.com.

World

Novartis starts testing swine flu vaccine

LONDON (AP)—Swiss drug-maker Novartis has begun injecting its swine flu vaccine into people in the company’s first human tests, a spokesman said Wednesday. The vaccine is being tested in a yearlong trial of 6,000 people of all ages in Britain, Germany and the United States, Novartis spokesman Eric Althoff told The Associated Press, adding that the vaccine will likely be on the market before the trial finishes.

A person in Britain became the first to get the swine flu vaccine about 10 days ago, he said.

Sanofi-Pasteur, which makes about 40 percent of the world’s flu vaccines, expects to start testing its swine flu vaccine within days in the U.S. and

Europe, according to spokesman Benoit Rungeard. Sanofi-Pasteur is a unit of Paris-based Sanofi-Aventis SA.

Since swine flu was declared to be a pandemic, or global outbreak, by the World Health Organization in June, pharmaceuticals have been racing to get their vaccines ready. Last month, Australian drugmaker CSL became the first vaccine maker to start testing its vaccine in humans in Australia.

“We initiated clinical trials about 10 days ago,” Althoff said.

Half of Novartis’ vaccines being tested are grown in chicken eggs, the traditional way of making flu vaccines, while the other half use a new cell-based technology.

Blast walls on major Baghdad streets to come down

BAGHDAD (AP)—The towering concrete blast walls that have both protected and suffocated Baghdad streets for the past two years will come down within 40 days, Iraq’s government announced Wednesday.

Although the walls helped reduce violence, they are unsightly towering reminders for Baghdad residents that their riverside capital of leafy neighborhoods and palm-lined boulevards has turned into a prison-like city of shadows separating one community from another.

Maj. Gen. Qassim al-Moussawi, the spokesman for the city’s operations command center, said the walls will be taken off major thoroughfares and secondary roads in the capital.

“No exception will be made any place in Baghdad,” he said in a statement, the first by an Iraqi official to give a specific timeframe for the demolition. The Iraqis already have removed some blast walls and reopened some streets, including the renowned Mutanabi book market.

Al-Moussawi did not say what the city would do with the millions of tons of concrete.

The announcement was the latest in a government push to restore a sense of normalcy and shore up public confidence ahead of national elections scheduled for January.

The U.S. military, which erected most of the walls, said Wednesday it had not been informed of the decision—an indication of the Iraqis’ increasing confidence as the two sides redefine their relationship with the expected withdrawal of the Americans by the end of 2011.

State radio: Zimbabwe’s vice president dies

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP)—Zimbabwean Vice President Joseph Msika, who served in President Robert Mugabe’s government for two decades, died Wednesday at the age of 86, state radio reported.

No cause of death was immediately given. Msika, known to have suffered from a heart condition, had disappeared from public life for most of the past year and had been treated on several occasions in neighboring South Africa.

Mugabe had visited Msika in a private hospital in Harare

Tuesday where he was in a critical condition and later announced his death to the party’s leadership, state radio said.

Msika, a veteran of black activism against white rule, spent a decade in colonial-era jails for his political activities.

He joined Zimbabwe’s government in 1987 after a peace pact that ended an armed uprising against Mugabe in the western Matabeleland province. The pact united Msika’s Zimbabwe African People’s Union party with Mugabe’s Zimbabwe African National

Union Patriotic Front.

The two parties fought a seven-year guerrilla war to end white-rule in Rhodesia, as Zimbabwe was known before independence in 1980, but quarreled over sharing posts in the new independent government.

Msika became senior vice president to Mugabe in 1999 after the death of his predecessor.

A Mugabe loyalist, Msika was not linked to power struggles that dogged Mugabe’s party in recent years and was not seen as a power broker in the party.

WORLD BRIEFS

Iraq: \$2,000 for Shiite-Sunni couples who marry

BAGHDAD (AP)—Muhanad Talib, a Sunni Muslim, married his Shiite bride because she was a “suitable woman” for him. It also didn’t hurt that their vows made them eligible for a \$2,000 payout from the government.

Talib and his wife are among more than 1,700 newlywed couples who have accepted cash from a government program that encourages Sunnis and Shiites to tie the knot. The government has held 15 mass weddings for inter-sect couples from all over Iraq, with the most recent taking place last month at a club in western Baghdad once used by Saddam Hussein’s army. While the Iraqi government doesn’t track marriages bridging the two major Muslim sects, experts say mixed couples are on the rebound after a dramatic decline during the days of heavy violence. The rise, or rather, the return of mixed marriages appears to be one more sign that Iraqi society is gradually recovering from the war, and that things are more peaceful than they have been in years.

K-G-Beefcake: Putin bares his chest in Siberia

MOSCOW (AP)—The Czar-boro man? When Vladimir Putin rode a horse bare-chested through a rustic region of Siberia, it produced astonishing images casting him as a rugged Russian outdoorsman. In the official photographs and video, shown on state television, Putin cultivates the macho image that Russians appear to love as they look to him to keep the country stable and strong more than a year after he stepped down as president. Putin was shown fishing and swimming the butterfly stroke in an icy river in the Tuva region of southern Siberia. He posed while sitting in a tree, wearing khaki pants and T-shirt with a canvas bush hat.

Israel claims control over split village

GHAJAR, Golan Heights (AP)—Israel’s foreign minister on Wednesday visited an Arab village cut in half by an international border and insisted it will remain under Israeli control. A border drawn by the U.N. in 2000 splits the village of Ghajar between Lebanon and the Golan Heights, which Israel captured from Syria in the 1967 Mideast war and later annexed. There is no fence through the town and it is effectively controlled by Israel despite the murky legal situation. Talking to reporters at the sensitive village, Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman ruled out handing it over. “There is no arrangement here. All of Ghajar is under Israeli sovereignty,” he said. “Therefore there will be no concessions here, not to Lebanon and not to Syria.”



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Division of Labor
Second Floor Afetña Square Building, San Antonio, P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone no. (670) 236-0907 or 0911 Facsimile no. (670) 236-0992



PUBLIC NOTICE OF HEARING

The following Non-resident workers and Employers are hereby notified to report to the Department of Labor, Administrative Hearing Office, 2nd Floor, Afetnas Building, San Antonio Saipan for a hearing to address the matter of the status of the employees and the employment practices of the employer. This notice will serve as a "Proof of Service of this Notice of Hearing". For information, please contact Investigator Dean Tenorio at 236-0948 prior to the hearing schedule.

EMPLOYEE	EMPLOYER	CASE NUMBER	HEARING DATE/TIME
1. Estrella J. Jumilla	Mariano Pangelinan	CAC No.08-136-04	August, 20 2009 1:00 pm
2. Rafael N. Alvarado	Mariano Pangelinan	CAC No.08-136-04	August, 20 2009 1:00 pm
3. Nora S. Tagbuyawan	Mariano Pangelinan	CAC No.08-136-04	August 20, 2009 1:00 pm
4. Sarah G. Gascon	Mariano Pangelinan	CAC No.08-136-04	August 20, 2009 1:00 pm
5. Liwayway O. Garcia	Mariano Pangelinan	CAC No.08-136-04	August 20, 2009 1:00 pm
6. Delia E. Tancinco	Mariano Pangelinan	CAC No.08-136-04	August 20, 2009 1:00 pm
7. Arceli R. Dela Cruz	Mariano Pangelinan	CAC No.08-136-04	August 20, 2009 1:00 pm
8. Caixia Qian	Mariano Pangelinan	CAC No.08-136-04	August 20, 2009 1:00 pm
EMPLOYER	COMPANY	CASE NUMBER	HEARING DATE/TIME
9. Mariano Pangelinan	Island Janitorial.	CAC No. 08-136-04	August 20, 2009 1:00 pm
10. Soledad C. Pangelinan	Island Janitorial.	CAC No. 08-136-04	August 20, 2009 1:00 pm

Failure to appear at your scheduled hearing shall be grounds for default and may result in the referral of affected worker to the Division of Immigration for their action and sanction against the employer.

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INVESTIGATION

The following Non-resident worker and Employer is hereby notified to report to the Department of Labor, Enforcement Section, 2nd Floor, Afetnas Building, San Antonio Saipan. This notice will serve as a "Proof of Service for the notice to appear for investigation". For information, please contact Investigator Dean Tenorio at 236-0948.


Employee	Employer	Case Number	Date/ Time
1. Hua, Li Rong	Huang Zheng Corp.	CAC#09-243-07	8/11/09 @ 8 AM
2. Lin Anshu	Huang Zheng Corp.	CAC#09-243 -07	8/11/09 @ 8:30 AM
3. Wang, Meng	Huang Zheng Corp.	CAC#09- 243-07	8/11/09 @ 9:00 AM
4. Yi, Guanghua	Huang Zheng Corp.	CAC#09-243 -07	8/11/09 @ 9:30 AM
5. Xu, Wangzheng	Huang Zheng Corp.	CAC#09-243 -07	8/11/09 @10:00 AM
6. Huang,Ming Shan	Huang Zheng Corp.	CAC#09-243 -07	8/11/09 @10:30 AM

Failure to appear at your scheduled investigation shall be grounds for default and may result in the referral of affected worker to the Division of Immigration for their action and sanction against the employer.


Employer	Case Number	Date/ Time
Huang Zheng Corp.	CAC No. 09-243-07	8/11/09 @ 1 PM
Hua Lian Trading	CAC No. 09-243-07	8/11/09 @ 130 PM
Wang Lili	CAC No. 09-243-07	8/11/09 @ 200 PM

Dated this 24th day of July 2009.

Jeffrey T. Camacho
Director of Labor/Designee



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866, 234-9447, 234-7689, 234-7670 • Fax, (670) 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp



NOTICE OF SALE

UNDER POWER OF SALE IN DEED OF TRUST

William S. Pangelinan and Diana C. Pangelinan (collectively "Trustor"), on or about February 25, 1985, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on February 27, 1985 under Document No. 85-0479 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

Lot No. 005 I 124, containing an area of 1,092 square meters, more or less, as shown on Cadastral Plat No. 005 I 02, the original of which was registered with the Land Registry as Document No. 16707 on March 11, 1983, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on June 12, 2009. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on August 14, 2009 at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than \$51,150.00. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.


Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than August 13, 2009, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than August 13, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within three (3) working days from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 14th day of July, 2009.

/S/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director NMHC

 NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency

Off The Wall

Man pulls snake from car engine with ‘chopsticks’

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore. (AP)—There were a couple of things wrong with Katie Prewitt’s Geo Tracker. There was the rope that seemed to hang from the car’s undercarriage. And then that hissing noise; maybe a faulty emissions valve. She took the car into her husband’s Klamath Falls body shop, but Dave Prewitt wasn’t quite sure what to make of the problem,

either. He called his friend Martin Schenck, who works across the street at Downtown Automotive, looking for a little help. That’s when they saw it: A flash of movement inside the engine, a slithering sort of movement. “It didn’t take too long to figure out that sticking our hands in any part wasn’t a good idea,” Schenck said, who’s been working with

automobiles for 28 years. The “rope,” it turned out, was an angry 3-foot diamondback rattlesnake. How it got there—or why—is anybody’s guess, but it probably snuggled up to the Tracker’s warm V6 engine while Prewitt had the vehicle parked at her Pine Grove home. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologist Trisha Roninger

said a rattlesnake seeking out such a habitat is unusual. “They’re looking for warmth, usually for basking, so that’s really bizarre, especially with as warm as it’s been in the Klamath Basin,” Roninger said. However odd, the snake was still there and Schenck was set on getting it out. He and Dave Prewitt tried squirting it with water as

a crowd began to form around the commotion. No dice. Every time someone got close to the vehicle, the buzzing sound started. “It knew when you were getting close to the rig,” Schenck said. “We assumed it could see us through holes or something.” Eventually, the snake’s rattling tail slipped out over the right front tire. Schenck grabbed a shovel and another tool—some make-shift chopsticks—and pulled the snake out. He used the shovel to pin the rattler to the ground. The rattle continued buzzing while the snake hissed and snapped at the air. “It was very upset,” Schenck said. Schenck decapitated the snake and the Prewitts took the rattle as a memento. They weren’t charged for the service.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Wild! Ohio family visits 52 zoos in 52 weeks

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—It’s been a wild year for members of an Ohio family, who say they’ve accomplished a goal of visiting 52 zoos in 52 weeks. Columbus resident Marla Taviano, her husband and three daughters began last August with the Louisville Zoo in Kentucky and spent weekends and vacations going to zoos across the country. Their visits included the Dallas Zoo, New York’s Central Park Zoo and the San Diego Zoo. Their Web site shows they wound up hitting 55 animal parks to see giraffes, reindeer and snow leopards. Taviano says she got the idea while trying to think of an adventure that would feel like traveling the world and seeing exotic creatures but on a budget. The family’s 22,000-mile tour ended Saturday with a visit to their hometown Columbus Zoo and Aquarium. Taviano plans a book about their journey.

Pelican at Idaho zoo swallows cell phone **IDAHO FALLS, Idaho** (AP)—Can you hear me now? A pelican at the Tautphaus Park Zoo took something other than food in his

bill when a cell phone that had been dropped in a pool at the exhibit made its way down the hatch. The flock in the exhibit were playing with the phone Monday until one of the birds swallowed it. For three hours, zookeepers couldn’t figure out which bird did it until the culprit coughed up the goods. “Luckily, the bird regurgitated it so it wouldn’t harm him,” zoo superintendent Bill Gersonde said. “We just need folks to be really cautious when they’re in the zoo and remember that they’re guests in the animals’ homes and they need to keep their personal belongings as close to them as possible.” Officials haven’t figured out who owns the phone.

Brazil forest group: Go green—go in the shower

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—New TV ads are encouraging Brazilians to save water—by urinating in the shower. Brazilian environmental group SOS Mata Atlantica says the campaign, running on several television stations, uses humor to persuade people to reduce flushes. The group says if a household avoids one flush a day, it can save up to 4,380 liters (1,157 gallons) of water annually. SOS spokeswoman Adriana

Kfouri said Tuesday that the ad is “a way to be playful about a serious subject.” The spot features cartoon drawings of people from all walks of life—a trapeze artist, a basketball player, even an alien—urinating in the shower. Narrated by children’s voices, the ad ends with: “Pee in the shower! Save the Atlantic rainforest!”

Man arrested for barking at Michigan police dog

THREE RIVERS, Mich. (AP)—Authorities said a man has been arrested in for barking at a police dog. The Three Rivers Police Department said officers responded Monday evening to an apartment

complex to investigate a suspicious situation. Police said Wednesday in a statement a 26-year-old man in the area “began to torment” a police dog inside the patrol car by barking and shouting at it, causing the animal to become excited and “very aggressive.” The man was arrested and later released on bond. He faces a charge of disorderly conduct.

Man who served time charged with robbing same bank


UPPER TOWNSHIP, N.J. (AP)—A Pennsylvania man who served nearly six years in prison for robbing a southern New Jersey bank was charged with

robbing the same one again. The FBI, state and local police arrested 45-year-old John Millison of Drexel Hill, Pa., on Tuesday and charged him with the July 27 robbery of a PNC Bank branch in the Marmora section of Upper Township near Ocean City. It’s the same bank he went to prison for robbing in 2003. He was released in November. Millison, who is being held on \$200,000 bail, was also charged with robbing a supermarket pharmacy on the same day as the bank.

Swiss security: Is that metal in your cheese?

BELP, Switzerland (AP)—Swiss

cheese is supposed to have holes in it, not bits of metal. But what to do when you’ve lost a spring and you’re pretty sure it’s in one of the expensive cheeses you planned to sell? Why, trundle them over to airport security. The Bern-Belp Airport near the Swiss capital says it allowed a local cheesemaker to run seven cheese wheels through an X-ray machine normally reserved for spotting bombs in luggage. Failure to find the spring would have forced the cheesemaker to forgo selling the loaves, each worth hundreds of francs (dollars). The airport said the machine spotted the spring, allowing it to be extracted and saving Tuesday’s work for the farm.



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@ptpicom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

**SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR THE LOADING BRIDGES
PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-004-09**

AMENDED REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals for Preventive Maintenance of the Loading Bridges at the Saipan International Airport on the Island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The scope of work entails providing preventive maintenance services for four (4) loading bridges. The detailed scope of work will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building on Friday, June 26, 2009. Proposers must submit all required documents listed in the scope of work. All responses to this RFP shall also take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract for the project, including excise tax.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: “Proposal for the Preventive Maintenance of the Loading Bridges at the Saipan International Airport”. One original and four (4) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than **4:30 P.M. LOCAL TIME, FRIDAY, AUGUST 7, 2009**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a proposal bond issued by a CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier’s check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Copies of approved surety companies and the bid bond form may be obtained with the scope of work at the office of the Executive Director on **July 22, 2009**.

Contractor will be required to obtain insurance policies based on CPA’s requirements. These requirements apply to contracts where the Consultant provides designated professional services to the Authority; i.e. appraisers, architects, equipment maintenance, messengers, construction managers, etc. and the total contract price is less than \$250,000. Copies of the insurance requirements may be obtained with the scope of work at the office of the Executive Director on **July 22, 2009**.


The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA’s best interest.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ MR. EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, P.E.
Executive Director/Contracting Officer

Date: July 22, 2009



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@ptpicom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

**SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR THE
AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL TOWER (ATCT)
PROJECT NO. RFP-005-09**

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals for Preventive Maintenance of the Air Traffic Control Tower (ATCT) at the Saipan International Airport on the Island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The scope of work entails providing monthly maintenance services for the Tower, the Base Building and its surroundings. The detailed scope of work will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building on Friday, July 31, 2009. Proposers must submit all required documents listed in the scope of work. All responses to this RFP shall also take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract for the project, including excise tax.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: “Proposal for the Preventive Maintenance of the Air Traffic Control Tower at the Saipan International Airport”. One original and two (2) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than **4:30 P.M. LOCAL TIME, FRIDAY, AUGUST 21, 2009**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a proposal bond issued by a CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier’s check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Copies of approved surety companies and the bid bond form may be obtained with the scope of work at the office of the Executive Director.

Contractor will be required to obtain insurance policies based on CPA’s requirements. These requirements apply to contracts where the Consultant provides designated professional services to the Authority; i.e. appraisers, architects, equipment maintenance, messengers, construction managers, etc. and the total contract price is less than \$250,000. Copies of the insurance requirements may be obtained with the scope of work at the office of the Executive Director.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA’s best interest.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ EDWARD B. MENDIOLA
Acting Executive Director

Date: July 28, 2009



**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB09-CRM-132**


SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: AUGUST 19, 2009 • TIME: 9:30 A.M.

**“PURCHASE OF SEVENTEEN (17) DESKTOP
COMPUTER SYSTEMS TO INCLUDE
SEVENTEEN (17) LCD MONITORS 19” FLAT
SCREENS FOR THE COASTAL RESOURCES
MANAGEMENT OFFICE”**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ JOHN B. JOYNER, PH.D. DIRECTOR, CRMO /s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN DIRECTOR, P&S



**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP09-CRM-133**

SUBMISSION: AUGUST 27, 2009 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.


**“NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND IMPACT REPORT FOR SAIPAN
BEACHES AND LAGOON USAGE FOR THE COASTAL
RESOURCES MANAGEMENT OFFICE”**

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT OR BY EMAILING john.starmer@crm.gov.mp or doris.chong@crm.gov.mp.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT MAY BE FAXED TO DR. JOHN B. JOYNER, CRMO DIRECTOR, AT (670) 664-8315 NO LATER THAN AUGUST 18, 2009, CLOSE OF BUSINESS

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ JOHN B. JOYNER, PH.D. DIRECTOR, CRMO /s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN DIRECTOR, P&S



**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP09-DOC-136**

SUBMISSION: SEPTEMBER 01, 2009 • TIME: 4:00 P.M.

**“TO CREATE A CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI)
FOR THE ISLANDS OF ROTA AND TINIAN
A PROJECT UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE”**

THE RFP PACKAGE MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWERBASE, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO MR. MICHAEL ADA, SECRETARY OF COMMERCE VIA E-MAIL TO depcommerce.ada@gmail.com OR FAX TO (670) 664-3067 NO LATER THAN **4:30 P.M., LOCAL TIME, AUGUST 21, 2009**.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ MICHAEL ADA SECRETARY OF COMMERCE /s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN Director, P&S



**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB09-DOC-137 (A-C)**

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: SEPTEMBER 01, 2009 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

**“PURCHASE OF ONE (1) CANON DR-9050C
DOCUMENT SCANNER, ONE (1) CANON DR-7580
SCANNER AND ONE (1) HP LASERJET 4700DN
PRINTER FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE”**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ MICHAEL ADA SECRETARY OF COMMERCE /s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN DIRECTOR, P&S

Science & Technology

Iowa 911 call center becomes 1st to accept texts

By **PETER SVENSSON**
AP TECHNOLOGY WRITER

An emergency call center in the basement of the county jail in Waterloo, Iowa, became the first in the country to accept text messages sent to "911," starting Wednesday.

Call centers around the country are looking at following in its footsteps, as phone calls are now just one of many things

phones can do.

"I think there's a need to get out front and get this technology available," Black Hawk County police chief Thomas Jennings said.

He said 911 texting should be of particular help to the county's deaf and hard-of-hearing residents, who have had to rely on more cumbersome methods to reach 911.

There have also been several cases around the country of kidnapping victims summoning help by surreptitiously texting friends or relatives, who then called 911. With direct texting to 911, they should be able to get help faster.

John Snapp, senior technical officer of Intrado, which upgraded the call center, said calling should still be the preferred way to reach 911, but texting is

a useful complement. A lot of kids already think they can text 911, he said.

For now, only subscribers to i wireless, a local carrier affiliated with T-Mobile USA, will be able to use the service, and only within Black Hawk County. Those on other carriers will get a reply saying they need to call 911 instead.

Snapp said Intrado is working

with other carriers to help them handle 911 texts as well. As a future upgrade, call centers may be able to receive photos and video from cell phones, which could help emergency responders prepare for an accident scene or identify a suspect.

While most 911 call centers can now get a rough location for callers, that is not yet possible with texts. That means i wireless

subscribers who text 911 will get a reply asking them for the city or ZIP code they're in. If the response corresponds to the Black Hawk County call center's area, the text messages goes through to an operator. Otherwise the texter is told to call 911.

The call center's operators are able to text back from their computers to conduct a conversation with the texter.

Tool helps avoid seizure-inducing content on Web

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Wisconsin researchers have released a free software tool that could help Web surfers susceptible to certain seizures.

An estimated one in 4,000 people has photosensitive epilepsy and could suffer a seizure when exposed to bright colors and rapidly flashing images. The condition gained prominence in 1997 when more than 800 Japanese children were hospitalized after viewing a cartoon. Since then, television directors, video-game makers and others have tested their content to make sure it doesn't reach seizure-inducing thresholds.

Web developers, though, didn't have simple ways to run such tests. Researchers at the University of Wisconsin-Madi-

son set out to change that.

"On the Web you really never know what's going to pop up on the screen until it does, and one second later you could be having a seizure," said Gregg Vanderheiden, the center's director.

Web developers can use the Photosensitive Epilepsy Analysis Tool, or PEAT, to determine how fast an image blinks, for example, and let developers know whether it poses a seizure risk.

Content that doesn't pass the test isn't always risky. Researchers say flashy content that doesn't fill at least 10 percent of a screen isn't a danger.

Robert Fisher, the director of the Stanford Epilepsy Center in Palo Alto, Calif., said he knew of "dozens of clips" on YouTube that can provoke seizures. He

advises viewers with epilepsy to avoid any sites where content blinks and flashes and to be ready to avert their eyes if necessary.

Dr. Giuseppe Erba, a neurology professor at the University of Rochester in New York, said Web developers now have a responsibility to use the testing tool to make sure the content they produce is safe.

Vanderheiden said his next priority is to create tools that give epileptics control over what is shown, so they wouldn't have to rely on Web developers to run PEAT.

One option is a software tool that could detect and disable all blinking content, he said. Another might dim the contrast on the screen to mute the effect of changing colors.

U r pwned: Text messaging paves way for hacking

JORDAN ROBERTSON
AP TECHNOLOGY WRITER

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Getting a text message is akin to someone sliding a piece of mail under your door: You may not have asked for it, you can't stop its delivery and you have to deal with it whether you want to or not.

The fact that text messages appear on mobile phones without any interaction from the user, and sometimes with limited interference from the cellular network operators, can give criminals an opening to break into those devices, as three teams of researchers showed Thursday at the Black Hat security conference here.

Their targets ran the gamut.

Apple Inc.'s iPhones and phones running Microsoft Corp.'s Windows Mobile and Google Inc.'s Android operating systems were all shown to be vulnerable. In some cases, the problems weren't with software, but the way cellular networks process messages.

The findings are troubling as people increasingly use their phones for handling sensitive data, like e-mail and online banking.

Phones are morphing into mini-computers, which means they're going to start getting attacked like PCs.

In some respects, phones are relatively safer. Cellular carriers control their networks more tightly than anyone controls the Internet, so they're in a better position to stop new types of attacks that crop up.

Telling the difference between harmful and legitimate traffic can be tricky, though. And anonymity still is possible given the proliferation of prepaid plans that don't require long-term contracts; a carrier can trace an attack to a particular phone but not necessarily to a particular person.

The techniques demonstrated Thursday show that even disciplined and safety-conscious users could have their phones hacked because they can't totally control what's coming into them.

Innocent people could have their smart phones knocked offline, commanded to visit sites hosting pornography or viruses, or even turned into remote-controlled subordinates of a criminal gang behind an attack.



The on-screen QWERTY keyboard is featured on the HTC MyTouch from T-Mobile in San Francisco, Monday, July 27, 2009.

Take this example about the iPhone, from Charlie Miller, a well-known hacker of Apple Inc. and other products, and his co-presenter Collin Mulliner, a Ph.D. student in telecommunications security at the Technical University of Berlin.

They showed how they can

disconnect an iPhone from the cellular network by sending it a single, maliciously crafted text message—a message the victim never sees. The messages exploit bugs in the way iPhones handle certain messages and are used to crash parts of the software.

HELP FILE

By **ROB PEGORARO**
(c) 2009, The Washington Post



Q: I've used Internet Explorer 6 for many years, but some sites don't seem to look right in that browser now. Would you recommend IE 8?

A: Yes, you need to dump IE 6. That Microsoft browser was far behind competitors, in terms of utility and security, two years ago when I wrote on my blog that I was done helping readers use it.

Now, some popular sites are starting to make the same move. The news-sharing site Digg announced earlier this month that it would probably stop supporting IE 6 for uses beyond reading news stories and comments.

YouTube has been suggesting that IE 6 users upgrade, although a spokesman for the Google subsidiary said they should still be able to view or upload individual videos.

Installing Microsoft's Internet Explorer 8 through Windows' automatic updates can be the simplest upgrade, but some readers have reported

that this caused problems on their PCs. The new Mozilla Firefox 3.5 (mozilla.com) runs faster and is less likely to conflict with Windows, while on slower machines Opera (opera.com) or Google's Chrome (google.com/chrome) may be better choices.

If a fossilized IT department limits you to IE 6 at work, you have my condolences. Try running the Portable Edition of Firefox (portableapps.com) off a USB flash drive, although plug-ins such as Adobe's Flash Player can be tricky in that case.

Q: I plan to copy some VHS tapes onto DVDs with a combo VHS/DVD recorder. Are any DVD formats better for quality and durability?

A: Not really. On old players, DVD-R and DVD+R may work better, but on newer hardware the format shouldn't matter. As for durability, the key thing is to take good care of the discs: Store them away from heat, humidity and sunlight.

DEATH & FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

†GONZALO QUITUGUA SANTOS

August 13, 1940 - August 04, 2009

In his new life, he now joins his:

Parents : †Enrique Borja Santos
†Dolores Quitugua Mendiola

Sisters : †Rosa Borja Santos
†Maria Concepcion (Mako) Rachuba

His memory will live forever in the hearts of his:

Wife : Olympia Reyes Santos

Children : **Rebecca R. Santos** (Ryan, Jessica, & Jesse Jr.)
Geraldine R. Santos (Willow, Kenzie, & Gabriel) & Chris O. Tudela
John R. & Corinne H. Santos (Eleina, Kristian, Annalei, Aleia & Janessa)
James R. Santos (Danyal, Jaron, Anissa, Jaiden, & Ly'ia Raven)

Brothers / Sisters / In-Laws:

Anna Borja , Virginia Santos , Maria Patrocinio (Chinang) & Ralph Walls, Roman Pedro Delos Santos, Adela Santos, Ricardo Santos, May Delos Santos.

Daily mass of intention is being celebrated at 6:00am at Kristo Rai Church.

On Wednesday, August 12, 2009, viewing and last respects begins at 7:00am at Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel. At 9:45am, his remains will be escorted to Kristo Rai Church for the Mass of Christian Burial scheduled at 10:00am. Interment follows immediately at Mount Carmel Cemetery.

Thank you

THE FAMILY

Life & Style

Judge delays sentencing of singer Chris Brown

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A judge has delayed sentencing R&B singer Chris Brown on an assault charge to seek more input from Virginia authorities about whether Brown could do community labor in that state.

Superior Court Judge Patricia Schnegg said at a hearing Wednesday she will sentence Brown on Aug. 27 in the beating of Rihanna, who did not attend the hearing.

With Brown in the courtroom, the judge met in her chambers with a prosecutor and defense attorney briefly before Brown's scheduled sentencing.

When she emerged, Schnegg said Virginia had yet to say if it could accommodate her requirement that Brown serve community labor, rather than community service.

The judge has said she wants Brown to do community work comparable to graffiti removal or roadside cleanup.

The Virginia Department of Corrections said earlier that it typically doesn't consider whether to supervise a person on probation until after they are sentenced.



This April 6, 2009 file photo shows Chris Brown appearing during his arraignment on charges of felony assault likely to cause great bodily injury and making criminal threats involving girlfriend Rihanna, at the Los Angeles County Criminal Courts in downtown Los Angeles.

The 20-year-old Brown pleaded guilty in June to one count of felony assault stemming from the altercation with

his then-girlfriend.

A plea deal calls for him to serve five years of probation and six months of community labor.

The "Run It!" singer pleaded guilty before a preliminary hearing in which Rihanna was likely to testify. The former couple never faced each other at that hearing. As Brown left through one door, Rihanna entered the courtroom from a private entrance.

The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office said Brown's recommended sentence was in line with what others receive when charged with similar crimes and have no prior criminal history.

The office does not provide specific information on comparable cases, spokeswoman Jane Robison said.

Brown said in a public apology video posted on his Web site July 20 that he had repeatedly apologized to Rihanna for the attack. He called his conduct "inexcusable" and pledged to do better.

Brown's career has suffered, with radio stations refusing to play his music and sponsors dropping him.

Michael Jackson's mom played role in business, too

NEW YORK (AP)—Entering into a business relationship with Michael Jackson rarely meant a long-lasting partnership. Over time, especially in the waning years of his life, Jackson hired—then fired—a litany of associates, from managers to attorneys to publicists.

Most were dispatched after the relationship soured, and the trust had evaporated.

Perhaps the one exception in his financial life was Jackson's mother, Katherine.

Jackson relied on his 79-year-old mother for more than emotional support: Documents show he put her in the position of trustee on contracts, including his lucrative Sony-ATV catalog, and associates say he also sought her input on other

financial matters as he became more wary of those in his business circle.

"Any deal Michael did, he always called his mother up," said Steve Manning, a close friend of the Jackson family. "She was the backbone of his spirit."

"What he trusted was that she would make sure that his wishes were carried out," said Mrs. Jackson's attorney, L. Londell McMillan, who is representing her interests as the singer's estate is sorted out. "He understood that she was the most loyal person in his life. Her loyalty did not stop for Michael with merely personal matters."

But Jackson's last known will, drafted in 2002, left his mother, along with his three children, out of any decision-making role

in his estate, leaving her only as a beneficiary.

Attorney John Branca and Jackson's former manager and close friend, John McClain, were named (along with a third party who has since removed himself) as the only people with the authority to guide his business matters after his death.

Mrs. Jackson is trying to change that, seeking to gain some kind of control over her late son's estate. The Jackson matriarch is adamant that she—or even another family member—have a role over Michael Jackson's business legacy, which may be worth more in death than when he was alive. Some estimates have valued his estate at \$500 million.

son's last rehearsals.

The movie would come with all the elements of a major studio release: product tie-ins, merchandising and even a director's cut and special editions.

But that's only if a Los Angeles probate judge approves the deal by Monday. The judge has scheduled a hearing for Monday to see if Jackson's mother, Katherine, has any objections.

A redacted agreement filed on Friday and released on Tuesday details the film project. The agreement is between concert promoter AEG Live, one of Jackson's companies, Columbia Pictures and others.

Deals could make King of Pop king of merchandising

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Authentic Michael Jackson products could start appearing on store shelves, cell phones, even in X-Box add-ons if a judge signs off on merchandising deals proposed by the singer's estate.

The current administrators of the singer's estate have presented several proposed contracts to a probate judge for approval. The agreements offer a taste of how the King of Pop may be sold in the coming months and years.

Trading cards, T-shirts, cal-

endars, lighters, stuffed animals that play Jackson's music and games are among the tangible items being considered. So too are denim products and high-end clothing lines, according to the filings.

The proposed deals are between Jackson's estate, concert promoter AEG Live and Bravado International Group Merchandising Services.

Court filings detail Michael Jackson film

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Coming soon to a theater near you (if a judge agrees): a full-length motion picture filled with footage of Michael Jack-

Abdul's 'Idol' exit shakes up TV's top-rated show

NEW YORK (AP)—Say what you want about Paula Abdul, but give her this: She makes for great television, especially at her own wacky expense.

The water cooler moments she's provided on "American Idol" are endless. Like the time she

or. Or when she critiqued two songs by Jason Castro after he'd sung only one. And who could forget when she and frequent nemesis Simon Cowell costarred in an awkward sketch sipping champagne and kissing, causing the studio audience to howl.



Abdul

told teenage contestant David Archuleta she wanted to squeeze his head off and dangle him from a rearview mir-

est stunt might be her most shocking. She dropped an on-line bombshell Tuesday night on her Twitter page, posting

that she had decided to leave the show after eight seasons. That leaves a three judge-panel of Cowell, Randy Jackson and Kara DioGuardi, who signed up for another season after joining as a fourth judge last year.

The abrupt announcement raises questions about the future of the Fox franchise—not to mention her own career. She may be the show's craziest judge, but millions of viewers hung on every garbled sentence just to see what she'll do next.

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GI JOE

Fri. and Sat. 1:20 4:30 7:25 9:30
Sunday 1:20 4:30 7:25
Mon. thru Thurs. 4:30 7:25

Dennis Quaid, Channing Tatum
War • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

From the Egyptian desert to deep below the polar ice caps, the elite G.I. Joe team uses the latest in next-generation spy and military equipment to fight the corrupt arms dealer Destro and the growing threat of the mysterious Cobra organization to prevent them from plunging the world into chaos.



A Perfect Getaway

Fri. and Sat. 1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00
Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:00
Mon. thru Thurs. 4:00 7:00

Steve Zahn, Milla Jovovich
Thriller • Rated R

Synopsis

Cliff and Cydney are an adventurous young couple celebrating their honeymoon by backpacking to one of the most beautiful, and remote, beaches in Hawaii. Hiking the wild, secluded trails, they believe they've found paradise. But when the pair comes across a group of frightened hikers discussing the horrifying murder of another newlywed couple on the islands, they begin to question whether they should turn back. Unsure whether to stay or flee, Cliff and Cydney join up with two other couples, and things begin to go terrifyingly wrong.



Funny People

Fri. and Sat. 1:15 4:05 7:10 10:05
Sunday 1:15 4:05 7:10
Mon. thru Thurs. 4:05 7:10

Adam Sandler, Seth Rogen
Comedy • Rated R

Synopsis

When seasoned comedian George Simmons learns of his terminal, inoperable health condition, his desire to form a genuine friendship cause him to take a relatively green performer under his wing as his opening act.



G-Force

Fri. and Sat. 1:15 4:15 7:30 9:45
Sunday 1:15 4:15 7:30
Mon. thru Thurs. 4:15 7:30

Nicolas Cage, Steve Buscemi
Action, Animated • Rated PG



Aliens in the Attic

Fri. and Sat. 1:30 4:25 7:20 9:40
Sunday 1:30 4:25 7:20
Mon. thru Thurs. 4:25 7:20

Thomas Haden Church, Carter Jenkins
Adventure, Family • Rated PG



Harry Potter and The Half Blood Prince

Fri. and Sat. 1:05 4:10 7:15 10:10
Sunday 1:05 4:10 7:15
Mon. thru Thurs. 4:10 7:15

Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson
Fantasy, Adventure, Sequel • Rated PG-13



Orphan

Fri. and Sat. 1:25 4:20 7:05 9:50
Sunday 1:25 4:20 7:05
Mon. thru Thurs. 4:20 7:05

Peter Sarsgaard, Isabelle Fuhrman
Thriller, Horror • Rated R

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Two would be a crowd for two mothers-in-law

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: My mother recently moved into a senior housing complex, which she loves. Now my mother-in-law, "Irene," has decided she wants to move there, too. The problem is, my mother does not want to live near Irene. Although Mom has always been nice to her, she has never liked her.

There are fewer than 50 apartments in the complex and only one dining area. Moving Mother elsewhere is out of the question because she signed a lease. Both Mom and Irene are in their 80s. I don't want to hurt my husband of 46 years or his mother. I feel like I'm ...

IN A REAL PICKLE IN MICHIGAN



Dear Abby

DEAR IN A PICKLE: Irene is eager to move into the complex because she has no doubt heard how much your mother loves living there and she probably doesn't know about any others. Your husband should encourage his mother to start looking around for an "even better" place. Surely after all these years, the fact that your mother isn't crazy about his won't devastate him. My advice is help Irene by scouting other locations right away.

P.S. She might be more open to the idea if your mother stopped bragging and started doing some complaining.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Our nephew recently asked family members for money to help him go on a mission for his church. Apparently he is supposed to gather 50 sponsors to pay a "tax deductible" \$50 to \$100 per month for two years (via direct bill or credit card), according to the forms from his church.

We love our nephew and his parents, but we do not share their religious beliefs. And quite frankly, the request has upset more than a few members of the family because the amount requested is obviously not just to support the young man, but a way to support his church.

Help! How do we respond to such a "charitable" request?

EMBARRASSED IN ARIZONA

DEAR EMBARRASSED: Respond by writing your nephew a sweet note wishing him well on his mission, and explaining that you do not feel comfortable donating. In no way are you obligated to fork over money—via credit card or any other way—and you should not feel embarrassed for declining to donate.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My son, "Rick," is divorcing his wife of five years, "June." It is a painful process and sad not only for them, but also the extended family.

Over the last three years June has developed symptoms of paranoia to the extent that Rick can no longer go out with friends or office associates. She thinks he's having an affair—which he is not. She checks his cell phone, reads his e-mails and has turned to alcohol for comfort.

I am relieved that June is now on medication for her symptoms, but the damage is done.

How should I respond to innocent inquiries as to how my son and his wife are doing? We have many friends who know them well. I'm hoping you can give me an appropriate response that will protect both of them until they're able to get their lives back on track.

MOURNING IN IOWA

DEAR MOURNING: Allow me to suggest a couple: "Rick and June have decided to go their separate ways," or, "They're divorced." You are not obligated to give any more details than that, nor should you.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in 'What Every Teen Should Know.' To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

President and first lady make best dressed list

NEW YORK (AP)—Barack and Michelle Obama edged out Hollywood stars on Vanity Fair's International Best-Dressed List.

The president made the list for the first time in issues that hit newsstands Wednesday, joining the first lady, who has been named twice before.

"I think Michelle Obama has cool style. She's not over the top. She's chic and she knows how to flatter her body and she always looks pulled together," said Stacey Bendet, founder and designer of the label Alice & Olivia, who made the list for the second time.

Rachel Roy, another designer who made the cut, added in an e-mail: "Michelle Obama is such an inspiration to me—she has become 'the' style icon."

The Obamas weren't the only stylish political dressers named. French first lady Carla Bruni-Sarkozy made the list along with New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg and his companion, Diana Taylor.

"The list is more political this year," observed Amy Fine Collins, a special correspondent for the magazine. "It seems a lot of the attention of the world is shifting to political and government leaders as opposed to just the Hollywood figures. The best evi-



This July 8, 2009 file photo shows President Barack Obama, left, and his first lady Michelle Obama, right, arriving in Pratica di Mare military airport on the outskirts of Rome.

dence of that is in the Obamas."

No longer on the list is Ange-

lina Jolie, although her husband

Brad Pitt remains, based on the

poll of fashion insiders. Other stars getting the honor are Penelope Cruz, Anne Hathaway, NBC correspondent Tiki Barber and James Bond star Daniel Craig.

Other fashion types on the 69-year-old list, which Vanity Fair inherited from the late fashion publicist Eleanor Lambert: Tory Burch, Georgina Chapman, designer of Marchesa, and David Lauren, son of Ralph Lauren. Bendet most admires the style of model Natalia Vodianova, who was honored alongside her husband, artist Justin Portman.

It's flattering—and prestigious—to be in such company, Bendet said. "I'm sort of amused by it. Everyone else is photographed with couture gowns, I'm a little funkier—a downtown girl."

New inductees to the Hall of Fame include actresses Catherine Deneuve and Renee Zellweger.

"Catherine Deneuve's style has influenced for decades. ... Women of her age now still look to her for ideas of how to present themselves as a woman of style and elegance, and younger women are watching her movies and taking cues from her," Fine Collins said. Meanwhile, Zellweger, "a newcomer by comparison," has had very few slip-ups in her years under the microscope.

Ga. man charged with trying to stalk Miley Cyrus

SAVANNAH, Ga. (AP)—A 53-year-old man who told police he is secretly engaged to marry Miley Cyrus has been charged with attempting to stalk the teenage "Hannah Montana" star, who is filming a movie in the Savannah area.

Tybee Island Police Chief Jim Price said Wednesday that Mark McLeod, 53, of Appling was arrested after Walt Disney Pictures security officers reported he had returned to the beachside movie set Sunday

after police warned him to stay away in June.

"He was asking for Miley and going up and knocking on some doors" of beach homes near the set, Price said. "The security guards recognized him. In fact, he went up to the security guards and asked them, 'Is Miley around?'"

Wearing a yellow tank top

and denim shorts so droopy that a deputy had to hold them up in back, McLeod appeared briefly before a Municipal Court judge at the Chatham County jail Wednesday afternoon.

Judge Steven Scheer set bond for McLeod at \$50,000, with conditions that he doesn't return to Tybee Island except for court appearances and he stays away



McLeod

from Cyrus and her family.

"Do I make myself perfectly clear?" Scheer said to McLeod, who wore shackles around his wrists and ankles.

"I got that. Yes, sir," replied McLeod, who also asked for the court to appoint him a lawyer.

Police on Tybee Island, 12 miles east of Savannah, have been on the lookout for McLeod since he was arrested there June 22 on misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct and obstruction of a police officer.

Barbra Streisand to auction items for charity

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Want to lounge in a wicker chair from Barbra Streisand's sunroom? Perhaps wear one of her designer dresses or tinkle the keys of her baby grand piano?

Your chance is coming in October, when Streisand will auction more than 400 personal items to benefit her charity.

"What good does it do in storage," the 67-year-old entertainer said. "Let someone else enjoy it. These things, they're not forever. We pass them on and reap the benefits for something important."

A collector throughout her career, Streisand is selling costumes from her films, including a dress from "Funny Lady," a robe from "The Way We Were" and several outfits from "Meet the Fockers."

There's a gold Dior pantsuit Streisand wore to the 1986 Grammys, an old phonograph she bought when she was 18 and "one of the first pieces of furniture I ever bought: A dental

cabinet. That's hard to part with actually," she said. "I wish I had room for it. I don't."

Dozens of dresses and suits, books, designer furniture, paintings and vintage collectibles are also being auctioned.

Streisand decided to part with items from her Beverly Hills, Malibu and New York homes because she's "through with extra stuff."

"The community is better served if I get rid of it and give all the proceeds to my foundation, which does really good work," she said. She plans to donate all proceeds from the sale, scheduled for Oct. 17-18 at the Beverly Hilton hotel, to the Streisand Foundation, which supports women's, children's, environmental and political causes.

Among the beneficiaries: City Year, which Streisand said "brings together a core of diverse young leaders that provide vital resources to youth in local neigh-

borhoods"; the William Jefferson Clinton Foundation ("We gave a big chunk to the climate change initiative," she said); and the Cedars-Sinai Women's Heart Health Center, which supports cardiac research for women.

"For decades women have been treated based on medical research done on men," Streisand said. "So it's about time that proper research be done and communicated to women so they'll be more informed about their health."

Highlights from the sale will be exhibited aboard the Queen Mary 2 during its trans-Atlantic cruise this month and then in Ireland and New York before landing in Beverly Hills, where the auction will be conducted by Julien's Auctions.

Meanwhile, Streisand is working on an album for release in September and preparing to act and direct in "a couple of movies on the horizon." She's also making a book about her new home.

Justin Kirk, Mark-Paul Gosselaar join 'Understudy'

NEW YORK (AP)—Mark-Paul Gosselaar and Justin Kirk will join the already announced Julie White in "The Understudy," a comedy about one of the most underappreciated jobs in theater.

Artistic director Todd Haimes says the Roundabout Theatre Company production will open Nov. 5 at off-Broadway's Laura Pels Theatre. Previews begin Oct. 9.

Gosselaar is best known for playing Zack Morris on television's "Saved By the Bell," while Kirk currently appears on the Showtime comedy "Weeds."

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

HEY, MOM, DID YOU KNOW THAT GRAVITY IN OUTER SPACE WORKS AS IF SPACE WAS A SOFT, FLAT SURFACE? IT'S TRUE.

HEAVY MATTER, LIKE PLANETS, SINKS INTO THE SURFACE. AND ANYTHING PASSING BY, LIKE LIGHT, WILL "ROLL" TOWARD THE DIP IN SPACE MADE BY THE PLANET. LIGHT IS ACTUALLY DEFLECTED BY GRAVITY! AMAZING, HUH?

AND SPEAKING OF GRAVITY, I DROPPED A PITCHER OF LEMONADE ON THE KITCHEN FLOOR WHEN MY ROLLER SKATES SLIPPED.

HOW CAN KIDS KNOW SO MUCH AND STILL BE SO DUMB?

Garfield®

By Bill Waterson

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Existed

4 Brooks

7 Goodyear

12 "Hail!"

13 Dander

14 More

15 Perch

16 Christmas

18 Vanna's

19 Oriental

20 Uppity

22 Conclu-

23 Nitwit

27 "Awe-

29 Sterne's

31 Massenet

34 Battery

35 Sniffer

37 Plant

38 Pinnacle

39 Recede

41 Without

DOWN

23 Wedding

1 Nasty

2 Birdlike

3 Squabble

4 Isinglass

5 Off

6 Red

7 — Mawr

8 Varnish

9 401(k)

10 Chaps

11 Grand-

17 Mid-June

21 NYC

24 Lennon's

25 Peculiar

26 "See ya"

28 Moreover

30 Hem's

31 Biz deg.

32 Big

33 Dundee

36 "Why

37 Overseas

40 Flora and

42 Poppy

43 France's

44 Due (to)

45 Combust-

46 Pallet

48 Try the

49 Literary

50 Unfavor-

51 Conk out

Solution time: 25 mins.

DOC	STIR	ROWS
EVA	EASE	EMIT
CATALINA	NINE	
ADD	TREETOP	
BORZOI	MOW	
ERA	MRS	NACHO
NECK	EEL	LAIN
TOTEM	TIC	TEC
YOU	PARADE	
PYTHONS	SEC	
LOBO	CATALOGS	
ORAL	ABEL	MET
WERE	PUNS	BOY

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Tina O'Brien, 26; Cirroc Lofton, 31; Charlize Theron, 34; Garrison Keillor, 67

Happy Birthday: Surround yourself with people who understand your goals and relate to what you are trying to accomplish. It's time to run a tight ship, budget wisely and do as much of the work as you can yourself. An older, experienced individual will shed some light on your situation. Listen and make the necessary adjustments. Your numbers are 7, 14, 22, 28, 30, 33, 46

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Choose your battles wisely. Don't let a personal incident cause you grief when the right reaction can bring about a different turn of events. Positive thoughts are followed by positive actions. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): People you've helped in the past will lend you a hand now, if you ask. Don't fall short of your goals because you are too proud. This is not a time to settle for less when you can do so much more. ****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You may have to juggle in order to take advantage of all the opportunities heading your way. Don't be afraid to make changes that seem peculiar. It's your ability to present that will open others to your unique and profitable ideas. *****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You really need to shake things up if you want to hold someone's interest. Get involved in something you've always wanted to do but

were afraid to pursue and you will take the first step to personal freedom. Like it or not, change is good and the sooner you make some the better. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You may feel an emotional tug. Ask yourself: How much will it cost to follow my dreams? What is the worse case scenario? You have what it takes—believe in yourself. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You have to separate your emotions from what needs to be done. Show your strength by doing what's right, not what everyone wants you to do. You have to put your moral code first. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You really need to spice things up. Put your creative mind to the test and you will come up with a viable plan that can help you out financially. Take advantage of what's being offered. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't fold under pressure. You can find a way to do what you want if you are secretive, manipulative and focused on your goals. Stop helping everyone around you and start calling in favors owed. It's your life and future. *****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Someone you least expect will upset your world by going in a different direction. You have to consider the consequences, losses and whether or not you can move forward on your own. A partnership that comes to blows will not be salvageable. **

EUGENIA LAST
THE LAST WORD
IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Look at things from a different perspective and you can find a way to resolve an issue that has been holding you back. An emotional relationship can be enhanced by the choices you make. Contracts, agreements and honest assessment of what's fair are what's required. ****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You have plenty to offer, so don't hold back. Someone will see the potential of what you want to do and what you have to offer. Start small and you will build something great. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Take care of the personal things in your life you have left dangling. Follow your intuition and the choices you make will not only change your lifestyle but lead to putting your talents to work for you. ***

Birthday Baby: You are unique and strong-minded. You are a thinker and a pioneer who welcomes change and implements reform. Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

2									6
		6	1		9	8			
			7		4				
9	3				6		2		
				7					
7	5				3		1		
			3	5					
		1	2	6	4				
4									9

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

8/07

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

3	6	1	5	7	9	2	8	4
4	5	9	8	1	2	3	6	7
7	8	2	3	4	6	5	1	9
9	7	3	4	8	5	1	2	6
5	2	4	7	6	1	9	3	8
8	1	6	9	2	3	4	7	5
2	4	5	6	3	8	7	9	1
1	9	8	2	5	7	6	4	3
6	3	7	1	9	4	8	5	2

Difficulty Level ★★★

8/06

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STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.



BREAKFAST AND LUNCH MEAL PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT OF BENEFITS SY 2009-2010



The School Breakfast and Lunch Meal Program provide healthy, nutritious meals with all the food components to make a complete meal. A nominal meal of \$.50 per breakfast and \$.75 pre lunch will be charged at schools participating in the School Meal Program for meals when school reconvenes. This a reduced price made available through federal grants.

Children from families that are below or meet federal guidelines are eligible for one free breakfast meal one free lunch meal everyday as the school is in session. An example of income eligibility using the federal free meal income table: A household with two children and two adults are considered a household of four persons and thus will qualify if combined monthly income is \$2,794.00 or less.

Applications to receive free meals are available at the schools and the PSS Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) office located on Saipan: 3rd floor, Retirement Building, Capitol Hill; on Tinian: Tinian Elementary School, and Rota: Rota Jr. High School. Parents should fill out an application, provide supporting documents and return it to PSS FNS office or at the school office where their child/children attends if the parents think they may qualify and wishes for their child/children to receive free meals. Application cannot be approved unless a complete application and all supporting documents are submitted. Applications must be submitted every school year regardless if your child/children was/were receiving free meals in the previous years. **Children who received free meals last year have 30 days from the first day of school to submit applications and are eligible for free meals during this 30 day grace period.**

Families whose children are currently receiving assistance from the Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP) will qualify for the School Meals Program but still need to complete an application yearly. However, please be informed that the PSS – FNS conducts a direct certification with the NAP to ensure your children are in the program. If not all children are receiving food stamp, you must provide income sources (2 recent check stubs, SSI, retirement pension, etc). Completed applications will be processed within ten working days upon receipt. The PSS FNS office will notify you of your application approval or denial. The food services management company vendors will be provided a confidential list of students qualified for free meals.

Applications may be verified of reviewed at any time during the school year. Households receiving free meal benefits must notify PSS FNS office during the school year of any decrease in household size and/or any increase in income over \$50 per month or termination of NAP benefits. **Households may apply for free meal benefits any time during the school year as circumstances change such as in cases of unemployment.**

In certain cases, foster children are eligible for free meals regardless of household income. If you have such children living with you and you wish to apply for such meals for them, please contact the PSS FNS office.

All applicants who are denied benefits have the right to request a conference to discuss the situation, present information and obtain an explanation of the submitted application or a decision rendered. Applicants may also appeal this decisions by contacting the PSS FNS office.

The PSS FNS office can be reached on Saipan: 237-3033/3060/3055/3088 or fax 664-3717, Tinian: 237-4106/4105 or fax 433-0455, Rota: 237-4046/4047 or fax 532-4020. Please feel free to call us if you would like to get more information on the free meal program.

"In the operation of child feeding program, no child will be discriminated against because of race, sex, color, national origin, age or disability

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Peter James Le'au
Acting Associate Commissioner
for Administrative Services



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

AMENDED NOTICE TO BIDDERS

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) is inviting qualified contractors to submit their qualifications and bid proposals for the **RUNWAY 7/25 REHABILITATION – PACKAGE 2, PHASE 2, FRANCISCO C. ADA SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, AIP NO. 3-69-0002-53/58.**

Sealed Proposals will be received at the office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, at Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at **2:00 PM, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2009**, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read.

The Project, in general, consists of the Airport Runway 7/25 Rehabilitation to include milling of existing runway, taxiway, blast pad and shoulder pavements, asphalt concrete overlay, grooving and marking of surfaces; and the restoration of Taxiway "A", Replacement of Runway Edge Lights and Guidance Signs, and the installation of lighted wind cones all in accordance with the plans and specifications.

The Project is being financed by funds from U.S. Federal Aviation Administration and Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within sixty (60) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for ninety (90) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

The contract period for construction of the project shall be in accordance with **Item G-100-3.2 (Contract Time)** of the General Project Requirement of the Technical Specifications. Liquidated damages shall be in accordance with **Item G-100-3.4 (Liquidated Damages)** of the General Project Requirements. The contractor shall be assessed with the liquidated damages if the completion of the Project is delayed beyond the contract time without excuse.

The apparent low bidder may be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

All mechanics and laborers on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section 70-27 of the specifications.

Each bidder must complete, sign, and furnish the "Bidder's Statement on Previous Contracts Subject to EEO Clause", a "Certification of Nonsegregated Facilities", and the "Assurance of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises Participation", as contained in the bid proposal documents, with the submission of the Bid Proposal.

A CD-Rom containing the bid proposal and contract documents including plans and specifications, may be obtained at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, upon the payment of **ONE HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS (\$150.00)** for each set of plan documents in electronic form (CD) including the bid schedule. This payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the CPA Conference Room, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, **10:00 AM, Friday, July 17, 2009**, to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. A site visit will be followed by the pre-bid conference. All prospective bidders shall be required to attend. Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, at least seven (7) days prior to the pre-bid conference. Contractors are required to attend the pre-bid meeting.

Each proposal shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The bidders are required to use the bid schedule form on the CD-Rom. The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the bid schedule or misenter the quantity of the item; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

The proposed contract is under and subject to Executive Order 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375 dated October 13, 1977, and Section 60-1.4(b) of the regulations of the Secretary of Labor (41 CFR 60-1) as implemented by Section 152.61 of the Federal Aviation Regulations, and to the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and Federal Labor provisions.

All labor on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rates established by CNMI Law or Federal Law, whichever is higher. The Contractor shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract.

Each bidder must supply all information required by the bid proposal documents and specifications.

The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications, and bid proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A contractor having 50 or more employees and any subcontractor having 50 or more employees and who may be awarded a contract of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) or more, will be required to maintain an affirmative action program, the standards for which are contained in the specifications. To be eligible for award, each bidder must comply with the affirmative action requirements.

In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award of any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement.

Women will be afforded equal opportunity in all areas of employment. However, the employment of women shall not diminish the standards or requirements for employment of minorities.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by US Treasury listed surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than **ten percent (10%)** of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The proposed contract is under and subject to the foreign trade restrictions required by 49 CFR Part 30, Denial of Public Works Contracts to Supplier of Goods and Services of Countries that Deny Procurement Market Access to U.S. Contractors.

The Aviation Safety and Capacity Expansion Act of 1990 provides that preference be given to steel and manufactured products produced in the United States when funds are expended pursuant to a grant issued under the Airport Improvement Program.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ EDWARD B. MENDIOLA
Acting Executive Director

Date: July 29, 2009



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866, 234-9447, 234-7689, 234-7670 • Fax. (670) 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp



NOTICE OF AUCTION IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, hereinafter referred to as NMHC, as auctioneer and seller, hereby gives notice that all of the rights, title, and interests of the following described real property situated in **San Jose**, Tinian, CNMI will be sold at an auction:

Lot No. 006 T 201, as shown on Drawing/Cadastral Plat Number 006 T 06, the original of which was registered with the Land Registry as Document Number 18302, on the 28th day of September, 1983, and containing an area of 1,000 square meters, more or less, together with the improvements and fixtures located thereon and therein and the appurtenances and all the rights, title, and interest of, in, and to the land lying in all streets, highways, and rights of ways abutting on or appurtenant to said premises.

Minimum Bid: The minimum bid for the property mentioned above in this notice shall be **\$150,000.00**.

The auction will be open to the general public and will be held at NMHC's conference room, Garapan, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. on **Friday, September 11, 2009**, subject to the following announced terms and conditions:

- Reserve:** The auction sale shall be held with reserve.
- Rights and Duties of Auctioneer:** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, auctioneer and seller shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
 - To withdraw the property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
 - To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
 - To reject any and all bids.
- Bids:** Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director, NMHC, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; Telephone: 234-6866; Facsimile: 234-9021; or to Mr. Vicente T. Salas, Esq., P.O. Box 501309, Saipan, MP 96950; Telephone: 234-7455; Facsimile: 234-7256.
- Deposit: Payment:** A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten (10) calendar days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title, and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC.
- Change of Terms:** Auctioneer and NMHC reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
- Inspection and No Warranty:** Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact NMHC for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

Dated this 6th day of August, 2009.

/s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO, Corporate Director



NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866, 234-9447, 234-7689, 234-7670 • Fax. (670) 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp



NOTICE OF AUCTION IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, hereinafter referred to as NMHC, as auctioneer and seller, hereby gives notice that all of the rights, title, and interests of the following described real property situated in **Garapan**, Saipan, CNMI will be sold at an auction:

Lot No. 003 D 16 (Formerly Block 1 Lot 16), as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat Number 003 D 00 dated February 19, 1971, the original of which was registered with the Land Registry on the 1st day of March, 1971, as Document No. 869, and containing an area of 1,022 square meters, more or less, together with the improvements and fixtures located thereon and therein and the appurtenances and all the rights, title, and interest of, in, and to the land lying in all streets, highways, and rights of ways abutting on or appurtenant to said premises.

Minimum Bid: The minimum bid for the property mentioned above in this notice shall be **\$100,000.00**.

The auction will be open to the general public and will be held at NMHC's conference room, Garapan, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. on **Friday, September 11, 2009**, subject to the following announced terms and conditions:

- Reserve:** The auction sale shall be held with reserve.
- Rights and Duties of Auctioneer:** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, auctioneer and seller shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
 - To withdraw the property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
 - To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
 - To reject any and all bids.
- Bids:** Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director, NMHC, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; Telephone: 234-6866; Facsimile: 234-9021; or to Mr. Vicente T. Salas, Esq., P.O. Box 501309, Saipan, MP 96950; Telephone: 234-7455; Facsimile: 234-7256.
- Deposit: Payment:** A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten (10) calendar days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title, and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC.
- Change of Terms:** Auctioneer and NMHC reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
- Inspection and No Warranty:** Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact NMHC for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

Dated this 6th day of August, 2009.

/s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO, Corporate Director



NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency

Giants lock up Eli Manning with \$97M deal



ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)—The Giants don't think being the highest paid player in the NFL will change Eli Manning.

Nothing seems to.

"He is a franchise quarterback," Giants general manager Jerry Reese said Wednesday. "He has done everything we asked him to do. He has come in, taken a lot of flack from you guys (the media) and he just keeps going. He does what we ask him on the field and he does what we ask him to do off the field. He is a good football player."

The easygoing New Orleans native, who took over as the Giants starter midway through his rookie season in 2004, has proven a worthy No. 1 overall draft pick. In his first four NFL seasons as the full-time starter, Manning has won a Super Bowl and was MVP of the game, helped his team to the playoffs all four years and is coming off his first Pro Bowl season.

Now he's set to make more money than even older brother Peyton.

Eli Manning agreed to a six-year, \$97 million contract extension, an average salary of roughly \$15.3 million, according to a person close to the talks. The person, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the deal was not signed and had not been announced, said Manning is guaranteed \$35 million under the deal that will keep him with the Giants through the 2015 season.

The extension will pay Manning \$200,000 per year more than All-Pro cornerback Nnamdi Asomugha of the Oakland Raiders, who agreed to a three-year, \$45.3 million contract this year.

Peyton Manning earns an average of \$14.17 million annually with the Indianapolis Colts.

Carolina defensive end Julius Pep-



This is an Aug. 2, 2009, file photo showing Eli Manning speaking with reporters after arriving for the start of New York Giants NFL football training camp in Albany, N.Y.

pers has Eli Manning beat this season, when he'll make \$16.7 million—but it's only a one-year deal.

Manning declined to talk to the media during lunch at Giants training camp on Wednesday.

Tom Condon, Manning's agent, was not immediately available for comment. Reese was hopeful that Manning's contract would be completed quickly, adding it's always important to get the quarterback signed.

Reese said that a lucrative new contract would not put more pressure on Manning.

"He is used to that," Reese said. "He won't get more pressure than he already

has in this market. He knows how to handle pressure and he has done it before. I don't expect to see any difference in his attitude and his work ethic. He works hard. He expects a lot from himself. He knows what his role here is with us and we expect him to continue it for a long time."

Manning was in the final year of the contract he signed as a rookie in 2004 and will make \$9.4 million under that deal this season.

The two sides have been discussing a contract for months, but they worked out the final details in recent days.

While Manning's contract was to expire at the end of this season, there was

little chance the Giants would lose him to free agency. They could have named him a franchise player and Manning has long said he wants to remain with the Giants.

Manning's Pro Bowl season last year included 3,238 passing yards and 21 touchdowns. He also threw only 10 interceptions, 10 less than the

previous season.

Manning has started the last 71 games for New York, the third-longest streak among active quarterbacks at the end of last season. During that span he also has become the first Giants quarterback to throw for 3,000 yards and at least 20 touchdowns in four consecutive seasons.

Scare over Bush's knee short-lived

METAIRIE, La. (AP)—Reggie Bush reached down to grab his left knee, gasped as if in pain, then looked over at the sideline, grinning.

Bush realized he'd caused a stir Wednesday morning when he suddenly walked off the practice field and returned with his surgically repaired left knee wrapped in ice.

So during the club's second practice of the day in the evening, the star running back took a moment to joke about it, then returned to full participation in team drills.

"I iced it just as a precaution, so when I ice it, that means I'm just maintaining," Bush said between practices. "I've got to stay on top of it and treat it as if it was the first day I injured it."

Bush had surgery on his left knee in December to repair cartilage. Drafted second overall in 2006, the Heisman Trophy winner out of Southern California has missed 10 games in his past two seasons, including four games in 2007 because of a posterior cruciate ligament tear, also in his left knee.

Coach Sean Payton already has held Bush out of a couple practices on days when the Saints practiced twice, limiting him to one practice a day.

When Bush has practiced, he has done so vigorously. On Tuesday after-

noon, he turned an end run into a 15-yard touchdown during 11-on-11 drills. He ran hard on Wednesday afternoon and did not shy away from contact.

Bush said he's had one MRI performed since training camp began late last week and said "everything came back great."

"Now it's just about getting myself back to football shape and getting my knee back to carrying the load again," Bush said.

Payton said that the Saints want to be careful with Bush and added he was confident he is healthy enough to play.

"He's smart by grabbing some ice and trying to get some treatment while he's out at practice, and he is doing fine," Payton said.

"I'm just trying to be smart about the amount of work I give him so that it doesn't become a bigger factor when we get ready to play in the season. But he'd play this evening if we were playing," he said. "I'm not concerned with Reggie at all."

Payton said CB Randall Gay is expected to miss several practices with an inflamed bursa sac between his Achilles' tendon and heel bone. "Fortunately for us it's not more serious than that," Payton said he was not sure whether Gay would play in the team scrimmage Saturday afternoon.

Goodell reassures retired players on benefits

NFL commissioner Roger Goodell reassured retired players that their pensions and disability benefits would not be reduced in a labor dispute next year, refuting statements made by the NFL Players Association.

In a letter to the NFL Alumni Board of Directors on Wednesday, Goodell wrote that claims made by the union—including NFLPA executive director DeMaurice Smith—that retired players have the potential to be affected next year "have no basis in fact."

"In all my conversations with DeMaurice Smith, he has never raised the subject with me," Goodell wrote in response to questions raised by NFL Alumni board members. "Had he done so, my answer would have been unequivocal - there will be no reduction in pension or disability payments to retired players during 2010."

In a statement released by the NFLPA, Smith responded by challenging the NFL to guarantee paying benefits beyond 2010.

"If these benefits are now being guaranteed for one year by the NFL, which they currently are not, then that's a win for the players," NFLPA benefits director Miki Yaras-Davis said.

Portions of Goodell's letter were released by NFL Alumni and Fourth and Goal, an independent retired-player advocacy group. Goodell was responding to concerns raised by the groups' directors after NFLPA members stated

retired players would take a hit in an uncapped year.

Smith had told a group of retired players at a meeting in Las Vegas in June that their benefits would be affected.

In the letter, Goodell said that since 2007, owners consistently have agreed not to reduce funding to retired players if a new collective bargaining agreement is not reached and results in the salary cap being lifted next season.

The debate is viewed as a sign both the league and the union are courting the support of retired players in negotiations to reach a new collective bargaining agreement.

Numerous former players have had a long-standing rift with the NFLPA, believing their needs were dismissed by former executive director Gene Upshaw, who died last August. Smith has made strides to ease tensions and address retired players' concerns since he was elected in March.

Still, retired players are taking sides.

NFL Alumni and Fourth and Goal board member Jerry Kramer welcomed Goodell's letter, noting it validates the trust he's had in working with the commissioner for the past three years.

"To hear that was not truth was both good news for the guys on disability and pensions, and it was good news for me because I have a lot of reasons to trust the commissioner," said Kramer, the former Packers offensive lineman.

"And this just solidified my position there. It's a big announcement for me."

Kramer said the NFL, under Goodell, is contributing up to \$9 million more toward retired player benefits than it previously did.

As for the NFLPA, Kramer questioned whether the union was using this issue to gain support from retired players in labor talks.

"You've got to assume this is the first shot in the collective bargaining process," he said.

Hall of Famer Mike Ditka said it's simply about doing what's right.

"The outcome of labor negotiations should not directly or indirectly impact the retirees pension and disabilities in 2010 and beyond. They have already suffered from the being on the short end of the stick," said Ditka, who is also the chairman of the Gridiron Greats Assistance Fund.

Former Vikings running back Robert Grant referred to Goodell's letter as "gamesmanship by the owners" in a bid to hurt the union.

Grant considers himself an independent activist and said he has dropped his NFL Alumni and NFLPA membership.

"I urge players to think for themselves and sit in the middle," Grant said. "Nobody's jumping up and down, because all of this is just posturing because they plan to break that union." (AP)

NBA BRIEFS

Report: Roy set for 5-year extension with Blazers

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—Brandon Roy has reportedly agreed to a five-year contract extension with the Portland Trail Blazers. The Blazers planned a news conference with Roy on Thursday to announce the deal, according to a report by Yahoo! Sports that cited unidentified league sources. The extension is expected to be worth between \$78 million and \$82 million, the report said. Roy led the Blazers with 22.6 points and 5.1 assists per game last season, his third in the league. He was acquired from the Minnesota Timberwolves in a draft-day trade for Randy Foye in 2006 and went on to win Rookie of the Year honors. The high-scoring guard helped the Blazers go 54-28 last season before losing in the first round of the playoffs. Portland was 21-61 the year before Roy arrived.

Rockets sign Jermaine Taylor

HOUSTON (AP)—The Houston Rockets signed rookie guard Jermaine Taylor to a multiyear contract on Wednesday. The 6-foot-4 Taylor was drafted by Washington in the second round and Houston acquired his rights in exchange for cash. Taylor was the 32nd overall pick. Taylor scored 1,979 points at Central Florida and made a school-record 251 3-pointers. He finished his four-year career as Conference USA's fourth-leading scorer. Tay-

lor averaged 11 points and 2.3 assists in four games with the Rockets' summer league team.

Pistons sign Daye to two-year deal

DETROIT (AP)—The Detroit Pistons have signed first-round draft pick Austin Daye. The Gonzaga forward signed a two-year guaranteed contract Wednesday and the team holds an option in each of the following two seasons. Daye averaged 12.7 points and 6.8 rebounds as a sophomore for the Bulldogs. He is the son of former NBA player Darren Daye. The Pistons hope the slender forward can provide front-court depth behind Tayshaun Prince.

Thunder ink free agent Ollie to contract

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—The Oklahoma City Thunder has signed free agent guard Kevin Ollie. The 36-year-old Ollie has appeared in 637 games over 12 seasons spread over 11 different teams. He has averaged 3.8 points, 2.3 assists and 1.6 rebounds. Last season, the 6-foot-2 guard averaged 4.0 points, 2.3 assists and 1.5 rebounds in 50 games, including 21 starts, with the Timberwolves. Thunder general manager Sam Presti announced Ollie's contract Saturday. Terms of the agreement were not disclosed. Presti says Ollie brings experience, leadership and professionalism to the team as it develops its roster on and off the floor.

Rays creep closer to Red Sox



ST. PETERSBURG, Florida

(AP)—The Tampa Bay Rays crept closer to Boston in the tightening American League East race, beating the Red Sox 6-4 on Wednesday.

Carlos Pena, Carl Crawford, Pat Burrell and Jason Bartlett all homered as Tampa Bay made it successive wins over Boston, moving within three games of the Red Sox.

Facing Boston for the first time since last season's AL championship series, Rays pitcher David Price allowed only two runs in six innings to improve to 5-1 at home compared to 0-3 with an 8.20 ERA on the road.

White Sox 6, Angels 2

At Chicago, Jim Thome homered twice, giving him 561 for his career, as Chicago downed Los Angeles.

Thome hit a three-run shot in the sixth—his second of the game and 20th of the season. With 561 homers, the 38-year-old is now only two homers behind Reggie Jackson, who is in 12th place all-time.

Gavin Floyd pitched into the ninth for the White Sox, who won their fifth in six games. Floyd, aided by three double plays, allowed two runs in eight-plus innings.

Yankees 8, Blue Jays 4

At Toronto, Johnny Damon hit a solo home run and had three RBIs in New York's win over Toronto.

Nick Swisher also connected for the Yankees, who used a four-run seventh inning to win their third straight game.

The AL East-leading Yankees, winless in eight games against second-placed Boston, return home to open a four-game series against the Red Sox on Thursday.

Athletics 7, Rangers 5

At Oakland, California, Adam Kennedy hit a tiebreaking two-run homer in the sixth inning, helping Oakland beat Texas for the third straight time.

Scott Hairston, Kurt Suzuki and Chad Pennington also homered for the A's.

David Murphy hit a pair of homers for the Rangers.

Tigers 4, Orioles 2

At Detroit, Edwin Jackson pitched eight scoreless innings to guide Detroit over Baltimore.

Jackson ended up conceding two runs but allowed just three hits, walking two and striking out eight. He has allowed a meager two runs in 16 innings over two starts against Baltimore this season.

Magglio Ordonez homered for the Tigers, who maintained a one-game lead atop the AL Central.

Indians 8, Twins 1

At Cleveland, Aaron Laffey re-

bounded from one of his worst performances to pitch a career-high eight innings and steer Cleveland to a comfortable win over Minnesota.

Laffey gave up one unearned run, struck out five and walked one. It was a marked contrast to his previous start when he ceded seven runs in four innings.

The first three batters in Cleveland's lineup—Grady Sizemore, Asdrubal Cabrera and Shin-Soo Choo—along with No. 9 hitter Trevor Crowe combined to go 10 for 16 with five runs and seven RBIs.

Mariners 11, Royals 6

At Kansas City, Missouri, Ichiro Suzuki had his major league-leading 52nd multihit game as Seattle broke out for a win over Kansas City.

Russell Branyan and Jose Lopez drove in three runs apiece for the Mariners.

Everyone in the Seattle lineup had a hit and only two failed to score as the Royals' home record since the All-Star break dropped to 1-10.

Phillies 7, Rockies 0

At Philadelphia, J.A. Happ struck out a career-high 10 in his second shutout of the season, leading the Philadelphia Phillies to a win over the Colorado Rockies.

Jimmy Rollins, Jayson Werth and Pedro Feliz all homered.

Happ (8-2) tossed a four-hit-

ter in his latest outstanding outing, making a strong argument to remain in Philadelphia's rotation. But it may not be enough for the rookie left-hander.

Giants 10, Astros 6

At Houston, Joe Martinez came off the disabled list to win his first major league start and Eli Whiteside hit a grand slam for his first career home run as San Francisco downed Houston.

Martinez (2-0) pitched in the majors for the first time since he was struck in the head by a line drive from Milwaukee's Mike Cameron on April 9, his second outing of the season.

The 26-year-old rookie right-hander gave up three runs and seven hits in five innings.

Nationals 5, Marlins 4

At Washington, Cristian Guzman fell a home run short of the cycle and Adam Dunn homered in his third straight game as Washington edged Florida to tie a season high with its fourth straight win.

Ryan Zimmerman and Ronnie Belliard also connected for the Nationals, who improved to 10-6 under interim manager Jim Riggleman. Washington has won the first two games of this series after dropping the first nine meetings this year.

Reds 4, Cubs 0

At Cincinnati, Scott Rolen returned from a beaming that left

him sore and blurry for two days, then hit a two-run homer on his first swing to help Cincinnati blank Chicago and snap an eight-game losing streak.

Justin Lehr (1-0) limited the Cubs to four hits in his first complete game. The 32-year-old Lehr was a reliever for Oakland and Milwaukee in 2004-06, and was making only his second start in the majors. It was his first win since May 18, 2006, with the Brewers.

The Reds got Rolen from Toronto in a four-player deal Friday, looking for leadership and a right-handed bat. He went 0 for 6 with Cincinnati before getting hit in the head by a Jason Marquis pitch on Sunday.

Mets 9, Cardinals 0

At New York, Nelson Figueroa pitched 4 1-3 innings and boosted the offense with a two-run triple after Jonathon Niese got hurt, leading New York to a victory over St. Louis.

Angel Pagan hit his second homer in four games and had four RBIs, and David Wright also homered for the Mets. New York took a 5-0 lead in two innings against Kyle Lohse (4-7), finished with 15 hits and won for just the second time in seven games, completing a 5-5 homestand.

Niese tore his right hamstring in the second inning when he went to cover first and fell into the splits while trying to complete a double play. He then threw a practice pitch, grimaced and collapsed. He was assisted off the field by two trainers and taken to a hospital.

Braves 6, Padres 2

At San Diego, Tommy Hanson pitched six solid innings to lead Atlanta past San Diego.

Atlanta's 14 hits were all singles. Nate McLouth and Chipper Jones had three apiece, and each Braves regular had at least one hit. The Braves won two of three and are probably sad to leave Petco Park. They tied their season high with 17 hits in a 9-2 win on Tuesday night.

San Diego's Kevin Kousser tied a team record by hitting into three double plays. Atlanta turned four overall.

Will Venable hit his sixth homer overall and fifth in his last seven games for San Diego. Chad Gaudin (4-10) allowed six runs and nine hits in 3 1-3 innings.

Diamondbacks 4, Pirates 3

At Pittsburgh, Stephen Drew hit a tiebreaking two-run single in the eighth inning as Arizona rallied past Pittsburgh.

Pinch-hitter Alex Romero also had a tying RBI single in the eighth for Arizona, which has won four in a row and six of seven. Ryan Roberts homered for the third time in two games.

Andy LaRoche and Garrett Jones went deep for the Pirates, who have dropped four in a row and nine of 11. Joel Hanrahan (1-4) got the loss.

Jones hit his team-best 11th homer off Chad Qualls to cut it to 4-3 with one out in the ninth. But Qualls got Steve Pearce to ground out and struck out LaRoche to pick up his 21st save in 25 opportunities.

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Kaike-Tagaman partnership reaffirmed



Saipan-based athlete Meiko Carey has scored a double victory for the Northern Mariana Islands, placing fourth among women in the July 2009 Kaike Triathlon Championships in Japan and drawing more attention to the event's exchange program with Saipan's own Tagaman triathlon.

Carey conquered the 3-km swim, 145-km bike, and a 42.195-km full marathon run to become the first athlete from the Northern Mariana Islands to complete the course in five years of exchange between the two triathlons.

Carey finished 62nd out of 821 participants in 8:22:35 at the 29th running of the Kaike Triathlon Championships held on July 19 in Tottori Prefecture, Yonago City in Kaike.

"A big thank you goes to the Kaike Triathlon organizers for showing us around and for all the people who lined the streets in the bad weather to cheer for us," said Carey. "We had a great

time and hope to come back,"

The top winners from both Tagaman and Kaike Triathlons received complimentary invitations to participate in the other event.

Marianas Visitors Authority board member Yoichi Matsumura accompanied Carey and said response on her participation was positive from the Tottori Prefecture Athletic Federation.

"The good news is that they have proclaimed officially to support the 2010 Saipan Marathon in March," said Matsumura. "Ms. Meiko Carey's outstanding performance had also added up to our exposure, and we received numerous inquiries from many Kaike participants expressing their intentions to participate in the Tagaman Triathlon event next year, as well."

Matsumura commended Northern Mariana Island Honorary Tourism Ambassador Yoshihiro Hamasaki for masterminding the Kaike-Tagaman Triathlon exchange program. Hamasaki also initiated a regular

Mieko Carey conquered the 3-km swim, 145-km bike, and a 42.195-km full marathon run of the 29th Kaike Triathlon Championships to become the first athlete from the Northern Mariana Islands to complete the course in five years of exchange between Kaike and Tagaman.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



ground golf tournament between senior citizens of Japan and the Northern Marianas and the Tottori Athletic Federation Winter Camp in Saipan. Matsmura also congratulated Carey on her outstanding performance.

"She was worried to find the bike course was extremely long and was not really sure she would complete this segment, but she continued on to challenge and complete the long grueling bike course and

the tough run, as well," Matsumura said.

Carey's participation was sponsored by Taga Inc., MVA, Asiana Airlines, and Pacific

Development, Inc. Kaike triathletes invited to participate in the Tagaman triathlon will receive complimentary rooms at Pacific Islands Club Saipan. (PR)

Saipan vs Guam pool tourney at USSP



USS Peliliu Club will be holding a Saipan vs. Guam 8-ball billiards tournament tomorrow night.

Action starts at 5pm with the six-player Saipan and Guam teams adopting Billiards Congress of America rules.

The format will call for teams playing six singles games and three doubles matches. The first to win two games of the three in each series wins the point.

Entry fee is \$30 and the champion team takes home all the prize money and a handsome trophy from USSP.

Aside from this weekend's Saipan-Guam tilt, USSP has also started an 8-ball competition between its home teams

and Bud's Bar's every Sunday.

USSP owner Rose Phillips said the tournament just completed its third week and will have three more weeks of pool action to go.

USSP Ynot is currently leading the league with a 15-6 win-loss record, followed by USSP Kittir, 12-9; Bud's Alterium, 3-11; and Bud's Catcher, 5-9.

She said USSP will be awarding cash prizes and trophies to teams that place first, second, and third. Entry fee is \$10 per player. Games start at 8pm and it follows BCA rules.

Phillips said she wants to start similar competitions for Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

For more information, call 233-1984. (Mark Rabago)

SWIMMERS

From Page 36

group marks.

Staal joined four individual races and made records in all events. His 25.06 seconds in the 50m freestyle is a new CNMI National and age group marks (15 to 16 age group). The 15-year-old swimmer's three other age group records are 31.90 seconds in the 50m breaststroke, 28.04 seconds in the 50 butterfly, and 29.75 seconds in the 50m backstroke.

Wong competed in five events and submitted four personal best times, three age group marks, and three CNMI National records.

His 31.62 seconds in the 50m breaststroke is a PBT, age group mark, and CNMI record. He did the same in the 100m (1:08.79) and 200m breaststroke (2:26.83) swims. The 18-year-old Wong had another PBT in the 50m freestyle (25.34 seconds) and the only event he failed to set a mark was in the 200m individual medley (2:14.96).

Graf went 4-for-4 in PBTs and tallied one age group mark in the 15 to 16 division. He had PBTs in the 100m freestyle (1:01.30), 200m freestyle (2:12.17), 800m freestyle (9:38.96), and 50 butterfly (30.11). His time in the 800m freestyle is also a new age group mark.

Kimura earned three PBTs in

four events. His PBTs came in the 100m freestyle (1:01.86), 200m freestyle (2:13.02), and 800m freestyle (9:40.57). The only time Kimura faltered to nail a PBT was in the 400m freestyle race when he clocked in at 4:47.58.

The four CNMI swimmers competed in three relays and passed all marks made during the 2009 Junior Pan Pacific Championships in Guam in January. The CNMI quartet timed in at 3:57.83 in the 4x100m freestyle relay, 8:35.74 in the 4x200m freestyle relay, and 4:29.77 in the 4x100m medley relay.

"I am so happy that they did not only improve, individually, but also as a team," said coach

Hiro Kimura, who returned to Saipan last Tuesday, along with Northern Marianas Swimming Federation representative Mike Villagomez, Shin, Graf, and Wong. Staal came back to the mainland after the tournament in Rome.

Hiro Kimura said the CNMI swimmers made these achievements despite limited resources, such as training, facility, and government support.

"Almost all the delegations in Rome were supported by their government. They have training facilities, funds for training athletes, and the list goes on. Also, most of the athletes are swimming in universities and colleges, while ours are mostly

high school swimmers," the older Kimura said.

"However, despite all these odds, our swimmers fought well in the tournament. They did their best in every race and made CNMI proud with their record-breaking performance," Kimura added.

Kimura said Commonwealth's swimmers did not allow the high level of competition in Rome overwhelmed them, as their mindset was on racing against themselves.

"They showed tremendous concentration once they were in the pool. They competed equally with the representatives of bigger and stronger countries," Kimura said.

JI HOON

From Page 36

ing again in about a week or so. There's nothing to worry about," said Heo in an email to *Saipan Tribune*.

Heo added while he is not playing, he spends some time working out at the gym.

"I am working on my physical strength. I am doing upper

body and abs workouts, which are very important. I do abs circuit training for two hours every day and I am still working on game drills with Philippe Poirgnon," Heo said.

Poirgnon is one of the veteran coaches in Ligue Caledonienne de Tennis.

The CNMI netter said he will leave New Caledonia on Aug. 12 for the tournament in Fiji.

The POJC will run from Aug.

17 to 21 at the Goodman Fielder International Regional Tennis Centre in Lautoka.

In Fiji, Heo will be reunited with CNMI teammates Thea and Thecel Minor, Christian Miller, Rafael Jones, Melody Johnson, and Jodel Fernandez. The CNMI netters will be anchoring the North Pacific Team's championship bid against the West and East squads.

Heo, who lost to Vanuatu's

Lorenzo Pineda in last year's boy's 18-and-under finals, is favored to win the said age group after competing in a series of tournaments in Australia, Fiji, and New Caledonia.

In his two recent tournaments in New Caledonia, Heo advanced to the finals of the singles competition on both occasions. In Fiji, he made it into the quarterfinals of the Air Pacific South Pacific Open Junior

Championships 2009 before losing to eventual champion Barret Franks of New Zealand, 3-6, 6-7 (6-8). In Australia, Heo won his first round match before fatigue caught up with him in the second round.

Heo's off-island tournaments were made possible through the support of Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association, Tan Holdings, and the Oceania Tennis Federation.

INTER-GOVT

From Page 36

vised to be at the gym before 6pm for the drawing to determine the four squads to play in

the opening day.

The inter-government/business caging will be the first big league to be played at Ada Gym since the facility underwent a facelift in time for the hosting of the 2009 FIBA Oce-

ania Basketball Tournament, two months ago.

Two portable basketball backstops and backboards donated by FIBA and Mondo were put in place of the old backboards. The backstops and backboards

cost around \$30,000.

The playing court had new lines that were based on new FIBA specification. Bleachers were repainted and fans were installed, while restrooms and locker rooms were refurb-

ished, too.

The Division of Sports and Recreation is asking for cooperation of players, spectators, and other visitors of the gym to keep the facility and its featured amenities in good condition.

FIELD

From Page 36

As far as I am concerned, osteoarthritis is a four letter word.

Driving down Middle Road this week, I noticed for the first time a sign for the Northern

Marianas Badminton Association. I didn't know they had an office. More troubling: how did I drive by a thousand times and not see it?

Cowabunga! This week I saw a car with a surfboard on top. Where are the wahines? Don't go goofy foot all you hoadads.

After most of Roger Clemens' defamation case got tossed out of court, Brian McNamee has turned around and sued Roger Clemens for defamation. Whatever happened to the Justice Department perjury investigation into Clemens' testimony before Congress?

Who cares anymore anyway?

Speaking about caring, how can Pittsburgh have an owner who tolerates such a lousy baseball team in a city with a winning tradition? The Pirates are on a 17-year losing streak which will be extended this season because they traded away their best play-

ers. Meanwhile the Steelers are defending champions.

Ah, I'm so hungry for some football, even games that don't count. We get our first game of the season this Monday with the Hall of Fame game between Tennessee and Buffalo. *Bon appetit.*

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	65	42	.607	—
Boston	62	44	.585	2 1/2
Tampa Bay	60	48	.556	5 1/2
Toronto	51	56	.477	14
Baltimore	45	62	.421	20

Central Division

Detroit	56	50	.528	—
Chicago	56	52	.519	1
Minnesota	53	54	.495	3 1/2
Cleveland	45	62	.421	11 1/2
Kansas City	41	66	.383	15 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	63	42	.600	—
Texas	59	47	.557	4 1/2
Seattle	56	51	.523	8
Oakland	47	60	.439	17

NATIONAL LEAGUE East Division

Philadelphia	60	45	.571	—
Florida	55	52	.514	6
Atlanta	55	53	.509	6 1/2
New York	51	56	.477	10
Washington	35	72	.327	26

Central Division

Chicago	57	49	.538	—
St. Louis	59	51	.536	—
Milwaukee	54	54	.500	4
Houston	53	54	.495	4 1/2
Cincinnati	46	61	.430	11 1/2
Pittsburgh	45	62	.421	12 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	66	42	.611	—
San Francisco	60	48	.556	6
Colorado	59	48	.551	6 1/2
Arizona	49	59	.454	17
San Diego	44	65	.404	22 1/2

Yesterday's Games

N.Y. Mets 9, St. Louis 0
San Francisco 10, Houston 6
Atlanta 6, San Diego 2
Arizona 4, Pittsburgh 3
Washington 5, Florida 4
Philadelphia 7, Colorado 0
Cincinnati 4, Chicago Cubs 0
Milwaukee 4, L.A. Dodgers 1
Detroit 4, Baltimore 2
Cleveland 8, Minnesota 1
N.Y. Yankees 8, Toronto 4
Tampa Bay 6, Boston 4
Seattle 11, Kansas City 6
Chicago White Sox 6, L.A. Angels 2
Oakland 7, Texas 5

By The Associated Press

Dean Borja lucks into 8-ball victory

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR



Dean Borja escaped from not one but two jams to win the Top Pool Bar 8-Ball Billiards Tournament last Saturday at the Garapan sports bar and watering hole.

In the finals, eliminations runner-up Zheng Jian Qing started strong by pocketing seven straight balls, but lucked out when he snookered himself on the 8-ball.

With ball in hand, Borja pocketed two balls but missed on his third shot, but the pool Gods were on his side as he managed to snooker Zheng once again.

The Top Pool Bar owner attempted to make a legal shot but wasn't able to connect. Once again with ball in hand and with five balls left, Borja this time didn't let the golden opportunity slip away, as he ran his remaining balls and the 8-ball for the win.

Borja's good fortune in the finals preceded another similar run in the semis where he went toe-to-toe against Roger "The Ghost" Espiritu.

In that match, Espiritu had a successful break and proceeded to pocket six balls only to miss a crucial preparation for his final



Dean Borja, left, poses with runners-up Zheng Jian Qing, center, and Roger "The Ghost" Espiritu after winning the Top Pool Bar 8-Ball Billiards Tournament last Saturday.

ball before the 8-ball.

With his options limited, Espiritu opted to shoot a safety shot that brought Borja to the table.

The eventual champ sunk five balls before missing on his sixth shot. Back on the table with only a ball left, Espiritu uncharacteristically flinched on his last ball.

Borja then took advantage of Espiritu's mishap and ran all his remaining balls for the 8-ball win.

The victory was worth \$80 for Borja, while runners-up

Zheng and Espiritu took home \$50 and \$20, respectively.

Borja, Zheng, and Espiritu won their first round matches by beating Robert Sanciango, Joey Lucido, and Mark Butac, respectively.

Other first round winners were Jerry Soriano (over defending champion Erwin Gomez), Luis Fajardo (over Renato Blanco), Chester Hamoy (over Bradley Demapan), and Patrick Taitano (over Greg Deleon Guerrero). Nor-

bert Camacho, meanwhile, got a bye in the opening round.

In the second round, Borja beat Camacho, Zheng took out Taitano, Espiritu defeated Hamoy, and Fajardo outplayed Soriano.

Borja and Espiritu then advanced to the first semifinals after Espiritu won over Fajardo and Borja topped Zheng.

Then after a series of elimination round matches, Zheng advanced to face Borja when Espiritu missed his sixth ball allowing

the former to clean the table.

The Top Pool Bar 8-Ball Billiards Tournament is held every Saturday and adopts a double-elimination format with a maximum of 16 players.

The entrance fee is \$10 and the tournament uses the rules of the Billiards Congress of America. Practice is free between 7pm to 8pm on game day.

For more information on the Top Pool Bar 8-Ball Billiards Tournament, call manager Zheng Jian Qing at 287-7676.

Naftan Express Ride reset for tomorrow

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



The 2009 Inaugural Naftan Express Ride will be held tomorrow with organizers hoping to have 40 riders cruising the fabled Naftan Point.

The first Naftan Express Ride was originally set for last month, but was rescheduled due to bad weather.

If weather permits, this Saturday's race will start at 4pm, but participants are asked to be at the starting point at 3:30pm.

Riders have two courses to choose from, the beginner's course, which will be one loop (about 45-minute ride) and the open course, a two-loop ride.

Naftan Point is located southeast of Saipan and featured many different Japanese defensive positions, including beach bunkers, and other World War II ruins.

"The course is about 15km, and should take beginners about 45 to 50 minutes to complete. The open course will be a two-loop course and mostly flat. However, it does have some great single track with an adventure features called a seesaw, where riders ride up a wooden ramp and it drops down to allow them back on the trail. If riders don't want to

do that, there is a detour course to avoid the feature," race organizer Russ Quinn said.

"This course is a great

way to experience riding off-road. Part of the course is on the sugar cane trail rail. Riders must have a moun-



Florian Braig, seen here doing the bike leg of a triathlon event early this year, and is among the Saipan riders invited to join this Saturday's Naftan Express Ride organized by Saipan Adventure Sports-Club.

tain bike and wear a helmet. They should also bring their own water bottle for the race. Refreshments and snacks will be available at the finish line," he added.

Tournament fee is \$10 for SAS-C members and \$15 for non-members.

SAS-C is Saipan Adventure Sports Club, which according to Quinn, the group's president, is the new "stage" name of Northern Mariana Islands Triathlon Federation.

"The board felt that NMIF was intimidating and would

prevent individuals from becoming members. We wanted to be an organization that has a larger reach, something that more people would be interested in being involved with," Quinn said when asked of the club's new name.

Quinn added they are still open for membership and this Saturday, they are offering a special deal for interested individuals. A \$25 fee will give an individual membership to SAS-C for the remainder of the year and at the same time an entry to the weekend race.

Foundation & Family Day Walk this Aug. 15



The Marianas Walking Association will host the 8th Annual Foundation & Family Day Walk on Aug. 15 along the Saipan Beach Pathway.

The walk will start from the Chamolinian Utt in Garapan and heads south toward the 10-kilometer turning point near Oleai Beach Bar and Grill in Oleai.

Those who wish to take on the shorter course, can take the five-kilometer variety of the event, which turning point is at the Japanese Tank in the intersection of Beach Road and Quartermaster Road.

Registration for the 8th Annual Foundation & Family Day

Walk is free and will begin promptly at 6:30am.

A total of 66 walkers took part in last year's 7th Annual Foundation & Family Day Walk. The number included participants from Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan and a Japanese couple who came to the CNMI to dive.

Fukui Prefecture residents Yasuhiro Kameda and his wife, Mayumi, took part in last year's event. The two had previously visited the CNMI seven times to dive but decided to shake things up on their eighth trip by joining the walk.

Like all MWA activities, IVV members will receive credit for joining the 8th Annual Foundation & Family Day Walk.

CWGA August tourney tomorrow



The CNMI Women's Golf Association will hold its August tournament tomorrow, Aug. 8, at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort west course.

According to the club's secretary Lorraine Babauta, show time is set at 12pm and tee time is scheduled an hour later at 1pm at the west course.

For more information, call Noriko Togawa at 287-0027, Lou Kim at 483-5255, Terry Tudela at 483-1761, Lorraine Babauta at 287-0621, and Bennet Seman at 483-0126.

Established in March 2007, CWGA is a nonprofit organization founded to promote, encourage, and introduce women to the sport of golf in the CNMI.

The organization intends to accomplish the following: 1. Promote civic and community interest in golf; 2. Establish and encourage competition and good sportsmanship; 3. Promote and provide social functions of the members and their families; 4. Promote youth golf activities; and 5. To do any or all things necessary and proper to accomplish its purpose and intention.

CWGA also commits its members to abide by a set of values that will further enrich a golfer's performance, attitude, and conduct-adopted from the USA Junior Golf Association.

The set of values members of CWGA are committed to faithfully are as follows: perseverance; sportsmanship; respect; honesty; judgment; responsibility; reliance; courtesy; and sincerity. (PR)

IVV has member walking clubs in the U.S., Canada, Brazil, Japan, South Korea, Turkey, Nepal, Australia, New Zealand, the CNMI, and 29 other European countries, including Germany.

For more information about the 8th Annual Foundation & Family Day Walk and MWA's future events, contact MWA officials Mario Espeleta at 322-8786, Hiroko Tajima at 322-8781, or Bea Quitagua at 285-1694.

MWA, then known as SAI-WAI, was incorporated as a nonprofit corporation on July 27, 2001 and was established to promote public health through non-competitive walking. It changed its name last year so it could encompass the neighboring islands of Tinian and Rota. (PR)



Giants lock up Eli Manning with \$97M deal

The Giants don't think being the highest paid player in the NFL will change Eli Manning. Nothing seems to.

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Kaike-Tagaman partnership reaffirmed

Saipan-based athlete Meiko Car-ey has scored a double victory for the Northern Mariana Islands, placing fourth among women in the July 2009 Kaike Triathlon Championships in Japan.

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Swimmers return from 'Roman Holiday'

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Keeping their promise not to be mere tourists in historic Rome, Italy, which hosted the 13th FINA World Championships, four CNMI swimmers completed the biennial meet with numerous records credited to their names.



Kai Staal, Rezne Wong, Cooper Graf, and Shin

Kimura were in one of the founding cities of Western Civilization for one week and although they spent some time touring the city famous for its Baroque and Renaissance architectures, still they did not forget the reason why they came to Rome: To set records.

Of the 20 events the four CNMI swimmers competed in, they logged four CNMI National records, 18 personal best times, and eight age

See **SWIMMERS** on Page 34



World champion and world record holder Aaron Peirsol of the U.S., second right, poses with CNMI swimmers, from left, Shin Kimura, Kai Staal, and Cooper Graf during a break in the 13th FINA World Championships in Rome, Italy.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ji Hoon's ankle injury is minor

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Ji Hoon Heo assured the CNMI tennis community that there's no need to press the panic button, as his ankle injury is just a minor one.

Heo sprained his right ankle during a semifinals game in the 2009 Olympique Open at the Olympique Club Tennis Court in Noumea last week after going for a wide forehand return against Ducasse Olivier.

It's the same ankle that bothered him when he played and lost in the finals of the 2008 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Fiji. Heo will be returning to Fiji next week to join six other CNMI netters in the 2009 edition of the POJC and he believes the minor injury will heal soon and will not affect his chances in Lautoka.

"It's not too bad. I will be playing." See **Ji HOON** on Page 34



Heo

Inter-govt/biz caging kicks off tonight

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



The 2009 IT&E Inter-Government/Business Basketball League will open shop tonight at the renovated Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Twelve teams are competing for this year's title, including defending champion IT&E. Also on the list are Docomo Pacific, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, Public School System, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Bank of Guam, Northern Marianas College, and Micronesian Brokers, Inc.

IT&E (formerly PTI) won the inaugural inter-government/business

PTI's Kelvin Fitial finds himself up against three Autonomous defenders underneath the baskets in this file photo taken during the championship game in last year's Inter-government/business league caging at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

caging last year after beating Autonomous in Game 1, 80-70. The eventual champion had a twice-to-beat advantage in the finals, but quickly defeated the depleted Autonomous crew in the first game. Autonomous played in the finals with an injured Ed Diaz and without Steve Rasa who was off-island.

The inaugural champion was then composed of Kelvin Fitial, Elmer Esdreton, Edsel Mendoza, Ryan Sanciango, Junior Renguul, and Bruce Berline.

Division of Sports and Recreation staff Calvin Tagabuel, who is helping Ponce Rasa coordinate the league while BANMI president Elias Rangamar is off-island, said games in the 12-team league will be played four times a week.

The playing days are Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday. There will be two games per each playing day with the first match starting at 6:30pm and the second one at 8pm.

Representatives of all teams are ad-

See **INTER-GOVT** on Page 34



Field notes

Over a breakfast of three thin crispy fried slices of Spam, two local eggs scrambled topped with Monterey Jack cheese sprinkles, and one Eggo waffle drowned in Log Cabin syrup and butter, I offer these totally unrelated menu items for your digestion.

The best thing about July is that it is over and we are now closer to football season.

The god-awful truth is that college football suits a diehard Saipan fan, call him Saifan, better than the NFL simply because one is Sunday and one is Monday. Wake up Sunday morning and you can slack off, drink beer, and watch college pigskin. To watch the pros you wake up Monday 3am, drink coffee and get ready to go to work. Huge difference.

As much as I look forward to watching college football on tele-

vision, the pain of not getting the Rose Bowl last season still lingers deep and hard in my football-shaped heart, and I worry about getting the upcoming ABC games live even though they are available on the satellite.

My head still hurts from not getting Game 1 of the NBA Finals.

Fortunately, CBS has the SEC contract for the next 15 years and MCV carries all CBS college football games that are on the bird.

MMA Saifans are 99.9 percent classy as evidenced by Trench Warz X.

In a perfect world, Saipan would have softball games every day for all ages. Saipan should be Softball Island populated by Saifan Man.

Softball at Capitol Hill in 2009 is like the Mt. Carmel field in 1979, serving up cheap, clean family fun. Yes, the good ole days are back.

Basketball tips off tonight in Ada Gym with the biz/gov league. Sign of the times: consolidation of public and private business

OFF THE BENCH

By BOB COLDEEN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Coldeen is a longtime journalist in the CNMI and is currently the news director of KSPN2



leagues. Let's see if the new and improved seating arrangement from the Oceania tournament holds.

The level of play in the men's soccer league is remarkably higher than it was, at least to these ignorant eyes, with better playmaking and creative shots on goal.

See **FIELD** on Page 34